MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

1 FEBRUARY 1982

Israel

European MFO Participation Approval -- Jerusalem radio reported that after being briefed by Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir on clarifications received from U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig, the Cabinet approved the four European countries' participation in the Mutlinational Force and Observers (MFO).

Terrorist Penetration From Jordan -- Jerusalem television reported a meeting with military correspondents at which Chief of Staff Refa'el Etyan recounted a penetration by a Fatah terrorist squad from Jordan on 28 January. Three of its members planted U.S.-made mines of a type used by the Jordanian Army near two roads in the Mehola area and then returned to Jordan, he said. Three others, according to Eytan, intended to enter the heart of Judaea and Samaria to carry out terrorist acts, but were captured by the IDF on 30 January.

Citing an interview with Jerusalem television's Arabic service, IDF radio reported that Shamir stated that Israel regards the infiltration as a violation of the cease-fire agreemen: signed last July, and that Israel will take measures to prevent repetition of such actions. The minister said Israel will explain to the Jordanian Government that its measures to prevent infiltration have been insufficient or ineffective.

MA'ARIV reported that Prime Minister Menahem Begin held a special consultation with Shamir and Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon on the renewed efforts to carry out terrorist acts. According to Jerusalem sources cited by the paper, some of the equipment discovered in the terrorists' possession is of U.S. make and the source of supply is Saudi Arabia.

PLO on Penetration Incident

According to the clandestine Voice of Palestine Radio, a responsible PLO military spokesman asserted in connection with the Israeli Chief of Staff's 30 January press conference that the Palestinian revolution and the joint forces confirm their adherence to the cease-fire in southern Lebanon and regard references to an alleged PLO breach of the cease-fire as preparation for anticipated Zionist aggression against southern Lebanon. A commentary by the same radio stressed that the cease-fire does not contradict the PLO's right to conduct military operations from anywhere other than southern Lebanon.

Another Voice of Palestine broadcast reported "heroic battles" with the Israeli Army at the eastern borders of 'occupied Palestine' on 28 and 30 January and claimed that the martyr Abu ash-Sha'r unit inflicted many casualties. Citing a Palestinian military spokesman, another radio report said the unit engaged "thousands of soldiers, helicopters and fighter planes," in a 5-hour battle and successfully carried out its plan.

Egypt

Mubarak Tour -- MENA reported that President Husni Mubarak flew to Italy on 30 January on the first leg of his tour of Europe and the United States. The same evening, he began talks with Italian leaders on bilateral relations and Middle East issues, Cairo radio reported. The radio also provided live coverage of Mubarak's arrival in France on 1 February.

Comment on Autonomy, U.S. Role -- AFP reported that Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali said in Rome that the autonomy negotiations are practically at a standstill. MENA reported that in a statement published by MAY, 'Ali said that if a new peace formula transcending Camp David and acceptable to the Palestinians should emerge, "there is nothing to prevent us from accepting it as long as Israel will accept it."

Noting that Egypt has encouraged the United States to contact Palestinian West Bank mayors, a 29 January Cairo radio commentary said that if U.S. approval of a dialogue with the PLO is conditional on the latter's recognition of Israel, the United States should urge Israel to take confidence-building measures toward the PLO to encourage it to take a positive

initiative toward Israel. Another radio commentary asked rhetorically why the United States is not prepared to negotiate with the Palestinians, with whom it has no direct conflict, when it has apparently been holding talks with Cuba, with which it has a direct major conflict.

Border With Libya -- Cairo radio noted that the Egyptian-Libyan border would be briefly opened on 1 February to enable Egyptians working in Libya to return for a vacation.

Followup, Reaction to Jordanian King's Initiative

Amman radio broadcast an appeal by the Jordanian Armed Forces General Command asking citizens to volunteer to fight in support of Iraq and instructing recruitment centers to accept enlistees. The radio also reported that the Cabinet decided to form a committee headed by the prime minister to supervise implementation of King Husayn's initiative. The Cabinet decided to open a special account in Jordan's Central Bank to receive donations for the Al-Yarmuk forces that are to assist Iraq, and Prime Minister Mudar Badran announced the Cabinet's decision to reserve employment and financial rights for all civil servants who volunteer.

Citing a Jordanian military source, Monte Carlo radio reported that hundreds of Jordanian volunteers have already reported to recruitment centers. Citing Iraqi National Assembly Speaker Na'im Haddad, the radio said in another report that Morocco and the YAR will follow also send volunteers to assist Iraq.

Amman television and the newspaper AR-RA'Y reported thousands of cables and phone calls expressing total support for the king's initiative. Without mentioning the king's move, Doha QNA said its correspondent in Amman learned that a high-level Jordanian delegation will visit Baghdad within the next 2 days to discuss with senior Iraqi officials ways to bolster bilateral cooperation.

According to Amman radio, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn telephoned King Husayn to thank him for his initiative. Baghdad INA cited an AL-JUMUHIRIYAH editorial which stated that Iraq looks forward to the participation of Arab volunteers not because it is in need of fighters but because Arabs must realize the need for adopting a unified position. The paper contrasted Jordan's "noble and responsible stand" with the actions of the "so-called Arabs" who support and assist Khomeyni's regime.

According to Tehran radio, Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Ahmad 'Azizi called King Husayn's announcement "an open declaration of war by Jordan against Iran." 'Azizi also said the Jordanian move enjoys U.S. support and is part of the U.S. objective to "increase pressure on Iran" via "reactionary Arab regimes." Another report by the radio cited a speech to the Majlis by its speaker, 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who said that King Husayn's move does not present a military problem for Iran since Jordan and other Arab countries would have already sent their volunteers to the war if they had any.

As evidence that the move does not pose a military problem, Hashemi-Rafsanjani referred to the formation of the "Golan Battalion." According to a Tehran IRNA report, Hashemi-Rafsanjani explained after a Supreme Defense Council meeting that many requests had come from Muslim Iraqi exiles and repentant Iraqi POW's to be organized to "fight infidelity." The council thought that since Iran is powerful enough on its own fronts, it does not need such a force, and hence it decided to dispatch the volunteers to Syria to be used as Syria saw fit in the battle against Israel.

SANA carried a statement issued by a Syrian "responsible source" saying that King Husayn's "theatrical announcement" is absolutely worthless and does not change the balance of power. The source added that the announcement shifts attention away from the basic battle against the "Zionist enemy," and he expressed the Arab citizen's wonder about the purpose of volunteering to fight Iran when the Jordanian border is closed to Fedayeen who want to fight Israel. Expressing Syria's belief that Husayn's announcement is merely an "attempt to soak up the sweeping public vengeance against the Jordanian regime, which is seeking to provoke Syria," the source condemned Husayn's move and said it will only benefit the Arab nation's enemies.

In a statement to JANA reported by Tripoli Voice of Arab Homeland Radio, Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi said he expected King Husayn to call for the liberation of Palestine, not for fighting Iran. Al-Qadhdhafi contended that the United States is riding the Arab horse and has begun to lead it in a direction which serves U.S, and Zionist aims. Arab nations threatened by the Zionist enemy have begun to exchange the real enemy for another; the proper Arab policy is for all rifles to point at the Zionist enemy and leave Iran alone, he said. Al-Qadhdhafi added that Libya opposed the Iraqi-Iranian war from the start and rejects the occupation by either side of any part of the other's territory.

Jordan

According to the Israeli paper DAVAR, Jordan has concluded a 100 million pound sterling arms deal with the Soviet Union for the purchase of SAM missiles, including SAM-8's, which will be stationed on the border with both Syria and Israel.

Syria

Peace Principles -- Beirut radio reported that in an interview published by the Beirut weekly MONDAY MORNING, Information Minister Ahmad Iskandar Ahmad defined Syria's three principles for peace in the Middle East as: First, Israel's complete withdrawal from Arab territories occupied in 1967, including Arab Jerusalem; second, confirmation of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights under the leadership of the PLO as well as their right to return and build an independent Palestinian state on Palestinian territory; third, the ending of the state of war between the Arabs and Israel.

Denials of Coup -- In an interview with the Paris magazine AL-MUSTAQBAL, Iskandar Ahmad denied Western media reports of a coup attempt in Syria, ascribing such stories to wishful thinking. His interviewer said he had learned that no more than 18 officers had been arrested, not as a result of a coup attempt but because of "whispers" on their part that had become known to the authorities.

According to Monte Carlo radio, a Syrian Government spokesman denied a report by the Kuwaiti paper AL-QABAS that former Air Force Commander Maj Gen Naji Jamil was recently executed for involvement in the alleged coup attempt. Damascus television subsequently noted that Naji Hamil recently participated in an As-Sa'iqah meeting.

Denial on Mediation -- In his AL-MUSTAQBAL interview, Information Minister Iskandar Ahmad denied that Syria has been asked to mediate in the Iran-Iraq war, asserting that circumstances are unsuitable for any such mediation.

Lebanon

Voice of Palestine reported that the clashes in southern Lebanon between the Amal movement and other organizations ended after Fatah units moved into the tense areas in a peacekeeping role in accordance with decisions made by the coordination committee for the south on 30 January. Beirut radio said 7 persons had been killed and 25 wounded in the clashes; Voice of Lebanon radio later reported 33 persons killed and 57 wounded.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Ministers' Meeting Postponement -- Citing sources close to the Arab League, AFP reported that at Syria's request a special Arab foreign ministers meeting set for 7 February to discuss Israel's "Annexation " of the Golan Heights has been postponed for the third time and rescheduled for 12 February. The UN General Assembly meeting on the Golan issue was given as the reason for the delay.

Hassan on Fes Summit, Egypt -- At a Paris press conference reported by Rabat radio, Morocco's King Hassan Ii expressed the hope that Egypt would return to the Arab fold and participate at the Arab summit in Fes because an Arab world without Egypt is incomplete. The King announced that the summit would be reconvened before this summer, and said it would adopt Saudi Crown Prince Fahd's peace plan as a working document.

Sudan

SSU Affairs -- SUNA reported on 30 January that President Ja'far Numayri issued a decree appointing 78 new members to the popular committee for developing the work of the Sudanese Socialist Union (SSU). On the same day, Numayri addressed the committee's first meeting, Omdurman radio reported, stressing that dialogue within the SSU is necessary and that disagreement is legitimate. However, Numayri added that any attempt to set up blocs inside or outside the SSU is an unforgivable crime. According to SUNA, Numayri also told the committee that Libyan leader Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and the Iraqi Ba'th Party have been attempting to undermine Sudan's unity.

Iraq

Monte Carlo radio reported that Iraqi Vice President Taha Muhyi ad-Din Ma'ruf announced in Singapore that Iraq has invited Iran to attend the nonaligned summit conference, due to be held in Baghdad in September.

Iran

Comment, Reports on Amol Distrubances -- In a Friday sermon reported by Tehran radio, Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that 60 rebels were killed in 1 day during the disturbances last week in the northern city of Amol. Claiming that residents of the city assisted security forces against the insurgents, he said "30 of the best people in Amol" were killed in the fighting. Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni likewise commended the inhabitants of Amol in a 30 January speech broadcast by Tehran radio. He said the rebels had been proved wrong in their belief that the north is 100 percent against the Islamic Republic. However, the clandestine Free Voice of Iran radio spoke of a "people's revolt" in the city and said that 3 days after the clashes, life had not returned to normal and parts of the city remained in rebel hands. According to IRNA, 10 captured rebels were subsequently executed.

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'ARAFAT ATTENDS FATAH CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING

NC300750 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0654 GMT 30 Jan 82

[Text] Last night the Central Committee of the Palestinian National Liberation Movement, Fatah, met in the presence of Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat]. The committee discussed the situation in southern Lebanon, the Israeli military concentrations and the situation inside the occupied land in light of the meetings held in Beirut recently between the PLO Executive Committee and the occupied land consultative committee and the positive results reached by the meetings, results which the movement had helped to strengthen.

During the meeting, a comprehensive review was made of the visits by the brother members of the Central Committee and the brother commander in chief to a number of Arab and friendly states. Moreover, a comprehensive discussion took place on the political situation in the various local, Arab and international spheres in light of the political movements and current developments in the area.

The committee implemented a number of measures and decisions on the various topics that were discussed.

'ARAFAT CHAIRS HIGHER MILITARY COUNCIL MEETING

JN301810 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1745 GMT 30 Jan 82

[Text] Brother leader Abu'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] presided over a meeting of the Palestinian revolution's Higher Military Council this evening. A comprehensive discussion was held on the past 2 days' events in southern Lebanon.

The council stressed the need to continue exerting good efforts with all sides. It also stressed great care for relations with the southern masses, considering them a shield and protector of the revolution.

The council discussed the Zionist military provocations and movements and the grave situation in the south. It also discussed the results of the visits the council's delegation paid to Bulgaria, the CSSR and Yugoslavia as well as the results of the military talks held in these countries.

ARAB LEAGUE TO MEET ON GOLAN ISSUE 12 FEB

NC301052 Paris AFP in English 1039 GMT 30 Jan 82

[Excerpt] Tunis, 30 Jan (AFP) -- A special meeting of Arab foreign ministers, set for February 7 in Tunis to discuss Israel's annexation of the Golan Heights, has been rescheduled to February 12, sources close to the Arab League reported today.

The postponement was the third since the Israeli parliament voted on December 14 to extend Israeli law to the territory it captured from Syria in the 1967 war.

The latest postponement was requested by the Syrian Government, and approved by Arab League Secretary-General Chedli Klibi. The reason cited was the current meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on the Golan Heights annexation.

VOP COMMENTS ON OUTCOME OF HAIG'S MIDEAST VISIT

NC291244 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1130 GMT 29 Jan 82

[From "With the Events" program]

[Text] Following two rounds of discussions which Haig has held in Cairo and Tel Aviv on the autonomy conspiracy, U.S. delegation sources admitted the problem is very complicated and there are vast differences between the Egyptian and Zionist sides. So far the two most important points which can be concluded from Haig's tour are:

1. The United States has sided with the Zionist attitude toward the autonomy concept. The enemy's foreign minister, Yitzhaq Shamir, has frankly declared that the Israelis and Americans have agreed to reject the Egyptian proposal that autonomy for the Palestinians in the West Bank should lead to self-determination. He added that the United States has rejected the Egyptian proposals and interpretations of autonomy.

2. The United States seeks to reach any agreement on the autonomy discussions before 26 April, the date of the final withdrawal from Sinai. Haig referred to this when he said that he has agreed with the Israeli officials on reaching an agreement before 26 April, but, if necessary, the negotiations will be continued after this date.

In going back to what the Israeli evening paper MA'ARIV published yesterday about what it termed the Israeli working paper on autonomy -- a paper which does not differ from Begin's plan on self-determination -- we notice that by adopting the Israeli stand, the U.S. secretary has revealed U.S. policy trends for the next 3 months, which precede the date of the Israeli withdrawal from Sinai. Washington wants to exert more pressure on the Egyptian regime to impel it to offer basic concessions vis-a-vis the Palestinian question by linking the withdrawal process with the question of preparing an incomplete agreement of principles concerning issues pertaining to the autonomy.

It appears that the U.S. delegation's announcement that the problem is very difficult and that the differences are vast is, at the same time, a signal that Reagan's administration will increase its pressure and efforts to push the autonomy conspiracy steps forward before 25 April.

When Haig's round of discussions in Cairo end, we will know the way the U.S. administration will continue its conspirational move against the Palestinian question and whether this will be in the form of new shuttle tours of the region by Haig or whether the new direction of the moves will be determined in the light of the results of Mubarak's visit to Washington at the beginning of next month when he meets with U.S. President Reagan.

QADDUMI CALLS FOR UN SANCTIONS AGAINST ISRAEL

NC300844 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0645 GMT 30 Jan 82

[Text] The head of the PLO Political Department, Brother Abu al-Luft [Faruq Qaddumi], has called for the severest sanctions against Israel. He said Israel is continuing its aggression and expansionist designs because of increased U.S. support. This was contained in the speech the head of the PLO Political Department to the UN General Assembly's emergency session last night which was held to discuss the question of Israel's annexation of the Syrian Golan Heights.

REPORT ON 'ARAFAT STATEMENT TO FRENCH TELEVISION

NC310746 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0645 GMT 31 Jan 82

[Text] Paris -- The brother commander in chief, Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], has said that France has disappointed the Palestinian people and the Arab nation because it abstained from voting at the recent UN Security Council session on the draft resolution calling for the adoption of effective measures against Israel in the wake of its decision to annex the occupied Syrian [Golan] Heights and because of the visit French President Francois Mitterrand intends to make to the Zionist entity at the beginning of March.

In a statement he made to French television, broadcast in Paris last night, the brother commander in chief added: I really feel profound regret because it is the first time France -- government and people -- speaks about exemplary and sublime principles and does not pursue anything of the kind.

GULF AFFAIRS

GULF COUNCIL OIL MINISTERS MEETING IN RIYADH

LD311818 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1743 GMT 31 Jan 82

[Text] Riyadh, 31 Jan (SPA) -- The oil ministers of the Arab Gulf Cooperation Council began their first meeting in Riyadh today by holding a closed session which was confined to them alone and did not include their delegations.

The session was attended by Saudi Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Affairs Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani, Kuwaiti Oil Affairs Minister 'Ali al-Khalifah as-Sabah, UAE Petroleum and Natural Resources Minister Dr Mani' ibn Sa'id al-'Utaybah, Qatari Minister of Finance and Oil Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn Khalifah Al Thani, Bahrain Minister of Development and Industry Yusuf ash-Shirawi, Omani Minister of Petroleum and Minerals Sa'id ash-Shanfari, Secretary General of the Gulf Cooperation Council 'Abdallah Bisharah and Assistant Secretary General of the Council for Economic Affairs Dr 'Abdallah al-Quwayz.

The ministers will be drawing up a unified petroleum strategic policy for the council member countries in accordance with the resolutions adopted by the first session of the supreme council which called for coordination of the member countries' policies in regard to all areas of the oil industry -- from extraction, marketing, processing, pricing and transportation to the exploitation of natural gas and the development of energy resources. They will also draw up a unified oil policy and adopt joint stands in regard to the outside world and all international activities.

Meeting Concludes Work

LD011238 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 1 Feb 82

[Excerpts] The petroleum ministers of the six member countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council [word indistinct] the first session at 1045 today.

At the beginning of the meeting Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani, minister of petroleum and mineral resources and chairman of the conference, delivered a welcoming speech on behalf of Saudi Arabia to the petroleum ministers of the other five members states and in which he described the closed meeting held by the conference yesterday as being the best he has witnessed throughout his public service. He said that we spoke in harmony and we sought the same goal -- the well being of our peoples and nation. Shaykh Yamani expressed hope that the conference will succeed in its mission.

The petroleum ministers ended their closed meeting at noon today, whereupon the completion of the work of the conference which started yesterday was announced.

'Abdallah Bisharah, secretary general of the Gulf Cooperation Council delivered a speech at the meeting. He spoke about the new challenges facing the six states, and primarily that of ridding ourselves of dependence on a single source of income for the peoples of the Gulf and the diversification of the sources of income since petroleum is a depletable and exhaustable material. He also noted that some powers consider that the Gulf owns the energy but must not have control over it. He stressed that the cooperation council is capable of drafting an oil policy controlled and owned only by the states of the council. Bisharah emphasized the importance of collective action and recalled that the future is the stage for realizing integration and coordination among the member states of the council.

Following the speeches by Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani and 'Abdallah Bisharah the open meeting of the conference went into closed session, following which the conference concluded its work.

BAHRAIN

HEIR APPARENT HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE 28 JAN

GF291848 Manama AKHBAR AL KHALIJ in Arabic 29 Jan 82 p 3

["Text" of press conference held by Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah, heir apparent and commander in chief of the Bahrain Defense Force, in Manama on 28 January 1982]

[Text] The heir apparent began his press conference with a speech in which he stressed that the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] defense ministers conference that convened recently in Riyadh was very successful in discussing its topics. He said that this was the result of instructions from the region's leaders and the conviction of its people of the need to protect the region's great accomplishments.

His highness said: The region is the target of various ambitions and will remain so. If the people of the region do not cooperate in the economic, political and defense fields for the region's welfare, the chain will be incomplete. The economy of the region is flourishing and its policy is wise. There must be cooperation to protect and defend the region.

The heir apparent said: The success of the GCC defense ministers conferences was ensured, because preparation for it was thorough. Thus, there was clear vision on all the conference's topics. You know that the conference's resolutions were a secret, this is natural in military and defense affairs. We should not talk before taking action, but this does not mean that the issues discussed during the conference had not been discussed previously by the concerned institutions in each country. These institutions had already discussed the resolutions that were to be adopted.

The heir apparent continued: Everyone is convinced that there is a need for joint action to manifest the GCC's goals and to bolster the bonds of fraternity and neighborliness. This will save a great deal of effort which otherwise would be lost in individual action. Our resolutions stemmed from the fact that our action should be complete. When our work in this region is complementary, it will support and assist our Arab and Islamic nation.

The heir apparent added: Because our individual forces are small, we cannot serve any Arab front. There are many cases in history in which Arab cooperation did not achieve its goals because there was no prior coordination. The Gulf countries have learned from previous lessons, and this was a motive for defense cooperation.

Answering a question on the idea that "Gulf security is the responsibility of its own people," he said: No one can defend the Gulf except its own sons. Any other country that claims to defend the Gulf is only seeking its own interests and is not really defending the Gulf. Whether or not we want to and whether or not we are able to, this is the task of the sons of the region. I call on the young people of the region to participate in carrying out this honorable task, because no one will defend our rights if we are not prepared to defend our countries. This is the simple meaning of the idea that "Gulf security is the responsibility of its own people."

Answering a question on whether there is a move to establish a GCC joint fund to finance the military needs of the GCC countries -- since some countries do not have enough potential -- the heir apparent said: In other fields -- particularly development fields in general -- there are funds, and this happened during the GCC finance ministers conference. Our policy is based on integration. If there is a gap in any of the GCC countries, no one will hesitate to fill it. I can even say that if there is a gap in our Arab and Islamic world, the Gulf countries will be the first to try to fill it.

When asked if there is any move to establish a joint Gulf army to repel any aggression against the region, his highness said: The armed forces of the GCC countries complement each other. We are linked with Arab countries in a joint defense agreement. Therefore, the armed forces of the Arab nation are -- theoretically and practically -- one unit. We find that -- because of the geographical position of the GCC countries -- the armed forces of these countries can be considered to complement each other and are under one leadership, because the basis is joint action. Anything that harms any of these countries will harm the others. This issue was agreed upon at the summit conference and was confirmed during the ministerial council and the recent defense ministers conference. The defense ministers will implement this, and we hope that this will be done as soon as possible.

When asked if there is a move to establish a joint command for the armed forces of the GCC countries, the heir apparent said: The method of coordination is something that can improve. Perhaps we will establish a joint command and perhaps we will resort to another means of communication. It is a matter of method, and the goal is that the armies will complement each other. I believe this issue must be left of the specialists and technicians so they can study the best means and make their recommendations.

Answering a question on whether an agreement has been reached to hold periodic meetings among the GCC defense ministers, the heir apparent said: An agreement to hold such meetings has been reached, because it is unreasonable to agree on joint action without meetings.

Asked about Gulf press reports that an air defense system for the GCC countries will be established, the heir apparent said: The GCC defense minister discussed coordination in general. They did not discuss its definite format or the specific weapons that would be used.

Answering a question on the classification of threats the region is facing, his highness said: Perhaps you heard the speech that Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Saudi defense and aviation minister, made during the GCC defense ministers conference. The Zionist enemy is the main threat. Our major goal is the restoration of the usurped Arab territories. In fact, the enemy is the source of all threats to this region.

Answering a question on the usurped Arab territories other than Palestine, such as the Arab islands, his highness said: We must defend Arab rights as a whole and try to restore any usurped Arab lands. However, the core of the conflict is our dispute with the Zionist enemy in Palestine. This issue has frozen many economic, financial and defense potentials. The day will come when this issue will be resolved. Yet, in general, every inch of this nation's land is precious and dear to us.

Answering a question on the view that the means of resolving the Middle East crisis is in the hands of the United States but that the United States has done nothing for us in the past 30 years, because we have not worked to maintain a balance in our international relations. His highness the heir apparent said: If cooperation and solidarity among us as Arabs were strong and solid, as was the case for a short period in the past, the situation would be different. Unfortunately, Arab problems and peripheral disagreements prevent that. We in the region are trying to settle these problems and disagreements. I believe that unless these disagreements are eliminated, no power in the world will deter or prevent the enemy from achieving its objectives. I do not believe that it is in the interest of any power outside the Arab world to end the crisis; Arab power alone can do that. We do not want to lay the blame on others. We should first unite as Arabs with pure hearts and common goals. Once this has been achieved all other matters will be simple. The world and the two superpowers will respect us. However, the prevailing disunity will not allow us to speak out powerfully.

Asked about the threats that the Iranian regime made against Gulf countries prior to the convocation of the defense ministers conference, his highness said that these threats had no effect on the course of the defense ministers conference. He said: We are continuing our march. We hope that the Iraqi-Iranian war will end as soon as possible and that understanding will prevail between both countries and throughout the entire region.

On the question of whether the GCC countries might attempt to end the Iraqi-Iranian war -- a confrontation which might eventually lead to the intervention of the superpowers -- his highness said: We have shown full readiness for that purpose, but our efforts have been rejected by Iran. The Iranians consider us to be a party in the war because we are Arab. Nevertheless, we have supported all Muslim and other efforts to end the war, therefore, Iran must answer that question. We will always seek to end the war so stability can be restored to the region.

Asked about the idea of establishing military industries for the GCC, his highness said: Our general orientation is to process certain technological capacities, because they the basis of power. The main idea is that we are taking up where others have left off in order to gain time. However, we are preparing studies in that respect.

Asked if there is a defense system for the region, his highness the heir apparent said: There is a defense system. Every part of the region is properly covered.

On the question of forming a Gulf rapid deployment force, his highness said: The principle of supporting one another is essential. The method of support is very detailed, however, we affirm that an attack against any GCC member country is an attack against all GCC countries. This gives us the green light to prepare for any emergency. This has been agreed upon. The method of executing this would take different forms such as the rapid deployment force. In general, the circumstances of the region require that all forces in the GCC countries become rapid deployment forces.

Asked if the idea of staging joing GCC maneuvers has been contemplated, his highness said: This is not a new matter. Bahrain has staged maneuvers in the UAE and has sent defense force personnel to Saudi Arabia to participate in maneuvers.

Answering a question on the ability of GCC forces to confront the forces of a superpower like the United States or the Soviet Union, his highness said: The principle is to defend our land against any aggressor, even if this aggressor is a superpower, regardless of the consequences. This principle must be instilled in our people. We cannot say that this enemy is stronger than we are, because then we will not be able to fight and we will have to capitulate. We are against the spirit of capitulation. The principle is that we have to confront and success comes from Almighty God.

Asked how near the Zionist enemy's threat is to the Gulf region, especially since Israeli aircraft have violated Saudi airspace, his highness said: There is no doubt that Israel is now threatening the entire Arab world. Bombing Iraq's nuclear reactor was a concrete action that everyone witnessed. He talked about Israel's aggressive aims, but no one could image that this aggression would take place. In fact, the aggression against Iraq's nuclear reactor proves that Israel may bomb any oil refinery in the Gulf. Israel has ambitions, and it treats the Gulf countries as confrontation countries. This is a beginning for reaching deep into the Arab countries.

When his highness was asked if there are various threats against the Arab nation -- such as the Zionist threat, the communist threat and the Eastern and Western cultural invasion -- and whether these threats can be classified, he said: As I have said, the source of these threats is the Zionist threat.

We must defend ourselves with our creed and identity and with all appropriate weapons to stave off all these threats. I believe that if there were no problem with the Zionist enemy, there would not be so much damage and devastation. This devastation is taking place in some Arab countries and is detrimental to our Gulf region. The main threat is the Zionist threat. Another threat is to divert us from the Arab and Islamic line, because we cannot be considered a people with identity without this Arab and Islamic line.

SAUDI ARABIA

LONDON AL-HAWADITH INTERVIEWS MINISTER YAMANI

PM011041 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 29 Jan 82 pp 20-22

[Interview granted by Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Affairs Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani to Huda al-Husayni in Riyadh -- date not given]

[Excerpts] AL-HAWADITH: It is being said that there is a desire to strike at OPEC, in which case there will be no unified policy for prices and production and not a single state can use oil as a weapon to achieve political gains. Is this true? And how can OPEC be saved?

Yamani: OPEC does not need saving because it has come to stay. Those who are trying to smash OPEC are deluding themselves. Many officials in the Western countries have begun to understand OPEC's importance to the Western world and not only to Third World countries. OPEC in the only means by which the world can maintain the level of prices and avoid oil price fluctuations.

In fact time will prove even to the man in the street in the West the importance of OPEC and the fact that it has not only served its member states or only the developing countries, which have bargained with OPEC's card in any North-South dialogue, but that it has also served the Western economy and enabled it to make investments in alternative energy sources without great fear of collapse in oil prices.

AL-HAWADITH: But who is trying to end OPEC's role?

Yamani: I believe that at the beginning it was a political reaction. OPEC has imposed itself on Western society and has been able to carry out actions against the will of the big powers, which in itself arouses certain political arrogance and leads to reaction. Politicians do not look at things through economic glasses or speak objectively. Therefore, many politicians, much of the public and individuals who have been affected by increased prices in oil and gasoline and other such fuels blame OPEC for being the cause, and therefore they do not want it and wish it to go.

AL-HAWADITH: What is the reason behind Saudi Arabia's decision following the Geneva and Abu Dhabi meetings to reduce its oil production?

Yamani: The kingdom did not make a decision to reduce production but has gone back to the previous production level, which is 8.5 million barrels -- the level that existed before the Iranian revolution and which led to disturbances on the market and fears of oil shortages.

AL-HAWADITH: It is being said that the return to the previous production level proves that the oil market is no longer in need of additional quantities of oil.

Yamani: There is a surplus in the market as a result of acute increase in oil prices, which was one of the mistakes committed by OPEC and which has now begun to rectify this mistake by freezing the price and reducing it slightly.

AL-HAWADITH: What is your opinion of the recent agreement between Libya and Iranian technicians for the latter to replace the American oil technicians? Does this come under the category of politics or economy?

Yamani: If there are people in Iran who can fill the gap resulting from the departure of U.S. technicians then this comes under the category of cooperation between OPEC countries and, therefore, it is economic.

AL-HAWADITH: Some people say you have exploited the Iraq-Iran war in order to flood the market with oil. Is it true you have benefitted from the war?

Yamani: In fact sisterly Iraq had asked the Saudi kingdom and other Gulf countries to increase their production in order to make up for the deficit resulting from Iraq's production stoppage. We met Iraq's request and increased our production -- in the kingdom, Kuwait, the UAE Qatar -- each according to its capability. Our action was in response to sisterly Iraq's request and because of the great need to meet this request.

AL-HAWADITH: The confrontation states are asking you, as oil-producing and exporting states, to use the oil as weapon in solving the Middle East crisis because it is the only weapon that has never been used before a battle but always during or after it. What is the solution? Is oil an effective weapon under the present circumstances?

Yamani: First I would like to call the oil a political strength or a political means to serve the Arab cause. Using the term weapon means that we are using oil as a means to fight others.

AL-HAWADITH: Is it possible that the strength of this political weapon could be doubled at this particular time, when a cold spell is gripping Europe and America and the Arabs are in a dilemma, particularly following the annexation of the Golan?

Yamani: There is a tremendous oil stockpile in the Western countries. The cold spell will lead to an increase in consumption of just over 1 million barrels per day. We hope this will be one reason for a reduction in the present oil glut. But the Arabs cannot now impose sanctions. We believe it is in the interest of the Arabs to seek a change in Western public opinion that would impose itself on the Zionist lobby and, consequently, influence the Western governments. We believe there is a more powerful weapon than oil, one which has not been used, and that is the unification of the Arab ranks. The Arabs are still divided. If they can unify their front then they will be able to create a political force that could bring pressure to bear on the Western community that supports Israel.

AL-HAWADITH: Many Arab contacts are now taking place in Saudi Arabia. Have the Arabs come closer to speaking with one voice?

Yamani: Earnest attempts are still being made and it is difficult to say that we have come closer. But there is great hope that we will eventually reach that goal.

AL-HAWADITH: While you were in the United States it was announced that Amir Fahd's trip [to the United States] has been postponed. What attitude is required of the United States for Amir Fahd to set a new date for the visit?

Yamani: In fact the postponement of the visit had many different reasons, most important of which was the need for Amir Fahd to remain in the area in the present circumstances, when consultations at the highest levels, and at all levels, are being held. It is necessary for Amir Fahd to remain in the area in order to oversee these consultations. We hope the United States will adopt an attitude that is more neutral and more moderate on this thorny problem. We believe the U.S. Government wishes there were no Zionist pressure to influence many official and economic areas in the United States, so that it could be more moderate and more neutral.

AL-HAWADITH: You mean that the only reason is the Zionist pressure?

Yamani: No person who knows the true situation inside the United States and the Western countries will doubt this for a moment.

AL-HAWADITH: Now that the United States has vetoed the Security Council resolution on the Golan, will the Saudi Kingdom change its attitude and relations with the United States?

Yamani: We hoped the United States would not use the veto. We also hoped we would not push the United States into using the veto because it is in the Arabs' interest that a certain amount of misunderstanding between the United States and Israel be maintained rather than eliminated.

AL-HAWADITH: Should an Arab-Israeli war break out, will new responsibilities be shouldered by the kindgom, particularly since Israel said that Saudi Arabia has become a confrontation state following its acquisition of the AWACS planes?

Yamani: In fact our responsibility toward the chief Arab cause is a full one. I cannot say that new responsibilities will be added to ours because from the beginning we have participated in the battle with men and arms and have shed the blood of our children on the battlefield just as we have given our money for the fight. Therefore there is nothing new, and it is just the same as it was in the beginning.

AL-HAWADITH: The Sultanate of Oman had proposed the construction of a unified network for the export of oil via the Arabian sea for fear of the closure of the Hormuz Strait. Have you discussed the positive and negative aspects of this plan?

Yamani: We discuss all the ideas put to us and study all their financial, economic and political aspects before taking a decision.

These ideas have not yet been fully studied by the Arab oil-producing countries. This particular idea has not yet been fully submitted.

BRIEFS

NIGER FOREIGN MINISTER VISIT -- Jidda, 29 Jan (SPA) — Niger Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Daouda Diallo left Jidda this evening after an official visit which lasted a few days. Mr Diallo held talks with a number of officials dealing with bilateral relations and the current world situation. [Text] [Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2022 GMT 29 Jan 82 LD]

PRESIDENT MUBARAK DEPARTS CAIRO ON FIRST TOUR

NC300616 Cairo Mena in Arabic 0610 GMT 30 Jan 82

[Text] Cairo, 30 Jan (MENA) -- At 0800 today, President Muhammad Husni Mubarak left Cairo for Rome for a visit to Italy and the Vatican.

President Husni Mubarak was seen off at Cairo airport by Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din, People's Assembly Speaker Dr Sufi Abu Talib, Consultative Council Speaker Dr Subhi 'Abd al-Hamid, Deputy Prime Minister for People's Assembly and Consultative Council Affairs Fikri Makram 'Ubayd, Defense and War Production Minister Lt Gen 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah and heads of the diplomatic missions of Britain, France, Germany and the Vatican.

President Mubarak is accompanied by a delegation that includes Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali and Foreign Ministry First Under Secretary and Director of the President's Office for Political Affairs Dr Usamah al-Baz.

President Mubarak's visit to Italy and the Vatican will be the first leg in a tour that will take him also to France, the United States, Britain and West Germany and that will end on 8 February.

The purpose of the tour is to boost Egypt's relations with these states in all political and economic spheres and to discuss the extent of the European states' contribution to the stimulation of the peace process and the Palestinian autonomy negotiations.

This is the first tour by President Mubarak abroad since he assumed the presidency on 14 October.

AL-AHRAM HEADLINES ITALIAN ARMS PURCHASE

NC010852 Cairo MENA in English 0735 GMT 1 Feb 82

[Text] Cairo, 1 Feb (MENA) -- Italy will supply Egypt with torpedo boats, helicopters and an air defence system, reports AL-AHRAM in its top billing and leading front-page story covering President Husni Mubarak's visit to Italy which will come to an end today when he leaves Rome for Paris.

AL-AKHBAR and AL-JUMHURIYAH, also leading their front-page news with reports on the president's visit to West European countries, highlight in their banners and leads that President Mubarak will hold important talks with French President Francois Mitterrand today.

AL-AHRAM's reporters covering the President's tour abroad learned that Egypt has asked Italy for credit facilities to finance military purchases from Italy and that the Italian Government has promised to study Egypt's requirements and means of financing the biggest military equipment deal Egypt has ever made with Italy, including torpedo boats, helicopters and an integral air defence system.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Kamal Hasan 'Ali declared that President Mubarak's talks in Italy and other European countries he will visit as well as in the USA will centre on consolidation of the peace process through the promotion of Egypt's relations with these countries.

RADIO COMMENTARY LINKS HAIG, MUBARAK TOURS

NC291953 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 29 Jan 82

[Ibrahim Wahbi commentary]

[Text] We believe that the tour of U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig to the Middle East precedes and paves the way for the talks which President Husni Mubarak will have in the United States.

The points of differences between Egypt and Israel concerning autonomy have been confined, and the nature of these differences have been clearly and accurately defined, thus making the ultimate goal of each of the two sides obvious. These contacts are also being held in light of the current changes in the domestic and foreign fields and in the Arab and the international spheres.

Egypt has stopped the campaigns against any Arab or non-Arab states. Arab and non-Arab states have become more moderate. Some of these states have even called for the mutual recognition between Israel and the PLO. There are also some international changes, particularly after U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig and Soviet Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko failed to reach solutions to the Polish question and the impact this will consequently have on other international problems whether in the Middle East, Afghanistan, Pakistan or in Southeast Asia. There is also the disturbing effect this will have on the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks and the possibility that the failure of the Geneva talks might lead international detente in general to a semiopen confrontation.

The international changes also include the secret meetings held between U.S. and Cuban officials because of the flow of Soviet arms to Cuba. The matter has brought the U.S.-Cuban crisis to a point similar to that of the Soviet missiles in Cuba.

The reaction to this is also reflected in the PLO's stand. Where observers ask: If the United States has been holding talks with Cuba, with which it has a direct major conflict, why would it not hold such negotiations with the Palestinians with whom the United States has no direct conflict? Subsequently, these Arab and international changes will be an impetus for a U.S. policy that will take these problems into consideration and will then define its stands and trends regarding them.

In light of this situation, reciprocal contacts are being held between the United States and the Middle East. The foremost goal of these contacts is, or should be, peace and stability as a guarantee for the security of the Middle East, a protection against foreign danger and a safeguarding of the U.S. interests.

'ALI DISCUSSES U.S. RELATIONS, SOVIET ROLE

NC312327 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2240 GMT 31 Jan 82

[Excerpt] Cairo, 31 Jan (MENA) -- [passage indistinct] About Egyptian-U.S. relations, Kamal Hasan 'Ali affirmed that this relationship is developing for the better, adding that the United States has shaped a major role for Egypt in the area. The reason lies in Egypt's weight in the Arab and international domains and in its capacity as the key to peace in the area.

The minister said that the present U.S. administration views Camp David as the sole practical step on which the parties concerned have agreed; the march of a comprehensive and just peace in the area can begin with Camp David.

Some differences are hampering the negotiating process. However, putting the mind to work during the negotiating process tends to draw the viewpoints held by all the parties concerned closer together.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali attributed the granting of Egyptian military facilities to the United States to the upset in the world balance of power following the Soviet Union's entry into Afghanistan and the presence of 100,000 Soviet soldiers some 400 km from the Arab Gulf. He said that Egypt will never fail to come to the aid of any Arab state that asks for Egypt's military backing -- this is the objective behind granting these facilities.

With regard to the Soviet Union's participation in the Middle East peace process, Kamal Hasan 'Ali affirmed that Egypt has never sought estrangement from any state. However, we have seen no need for a Soviet role in the solution of the issue, the reason being that U.S. participation is quite adequate for continuing the peace process in the area. Reliance on the Soviet Union for solving the Middle East issue, would not have produced the desired result. The failure of the Geneva conference, which the Soviet Union had attended is proof of this.

GHALI NOTES IMPORTANCE OF MULTINATIONAL FORCE

NC311644 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 31 Jan 82

[Text] Commenting on the Israeli cabinet's approval of Europe's participation in the Sinai multinational force, State Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dr Butrus Ghali said: Egypt had earlier explained the importance of Europe's participation in the Sinai multinational force. The participation of Europe in this force, no doubt, will highlight the European role in the peace process and the realization of a comprehensive settlement of the Middle East crisis, including the Palestinian issue. He added that the participation of Europe will add to the international character of the Sinai multinational force, which now includes representatives of 11 states.

AL-JUMHURIYAH NOTES ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL

NC010844 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0740 GMT 1 Feb 82

[Text] Cairo, 1 Feb (MENA) -- Israel has begun implementing the measures for its final withdrawal from the Sinai. It has reduced the number of its forces in the camps in Rafah and removed the emplacements, fortifications and installations in a number of settlements around Yamit.

In reporting this today, the newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH says that the airports of (Al-Jawrah) and Ra's an-Naqb have been evacuated to prepare them for receiving the multinational force, the advance parties of which will arrive in the middle of March.

TALKS UNDERWAY TO IMPROVE ARAB SOLIDARITY

NC300800 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0610 GMT 30 Jan 82

[From the press review]

[Text] AKHBAR AL-YAWM newspaper reports today that important talks are currently taking place among the Arab states to achieve Arab solidarity. Among its most prominent features will be the adoption of the following two steps: The first pertains to the cancellation of the decision to freeze Egypt's membership in the Arab League, and the second involves the return of the Arab League headquarters to Cairo. It is known that the Arab League Council has the authority to issue both decisions.

The paper refers in this regard to the suggestion that the Arab summit conference discuss this subject when it resumes its meetings in Fes, Morocco. Meanwhile, Egypt would have regained the remaining part of Sinai through peace and not through war.

LIBYAN BORDER TO OPEN 1 HOUR FOR WORKERS

NC010657 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 1 Feb 82

[Text] The border between Egypt and Libya will be opened for 1 hour today for the first time in 3 years to enable to group of Egyptians working in Libya to return to spend their holidays in their country.

Colonel al-Qadhdhafi closed the border between the two countries after the signing of the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel. Observers in Cairo believe that Libya's approval to allow Egyptians to return to their country constitutes an invitative of good intention and demonstrates a desire for a reconciliation with President Mubarak's administration.

PAPER NOTES HASSAN REMARKS ON ARAB SUMMIT

NC300702 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 30 Jan 82

[From the press review]

[Text] AKHBAR AL-YAWM highlights the statement by Moroccan King Hassan II yesterday that he hopes with all his heart that Egypt will participate in the next Arab summit conference.

At a press conference he held in Paris yesterday, King Hassan said: I believe and have always stated that our Arab world is incomplete without Egypt and that the Arab base will be incomplete without Egypt.

AL-AHRAM REPORTS BIG OIL FIND IN WESTERN DESERT

NC311407 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0615 GMT 31 Jan 82

[Text] Cairo, 31 Jan (MENA) -- Details of a new oil discovery in Egypt will be announced in the next few hours. Tests have shown that it is a large field. The first exploratory well is producing more than 5,000 barrels a day, in addition to quantities of natural gas.

In today's edition, AL-AHRAM says that this discovery lies in the Western Desert, giving great hope [that big reserves will be discovered] in that area, where no new discoveries have been made in recent years.

AL-AHRAM says that experts from the Shell Oil Company, which made the discovery, are expected to arrive in Cairo today to consult with the Egyptian Petroleum authority on publishing the details of the discovery.

BRIEFS

MENA EDITORIAL BOARD -- CAIRO, 31 Jan (MENA) -- An editorial board has been formed for the MIDDLE EAST NEWS AGENCY under the chairmanship of Muhammad 'Abd al-Jawad Mansur, the agency's board chairman and chief editor. The members of board include the following chief editors: Rif'at 'Ali Mahmud al-Muhandis, Muhammad Najib 'Abd al-'Alim al-Badri, Rushdi Muhammad 'Abdallah, and Ahmad Rida Khalifah. The board also includes 'Ali Rashad 'Abd al-Qawi, the foreign desk managing editor, Mujahid 'Abd al-Mun'im Mujahid, the new control managing editor, and Mahmud 'Abd al-'Azim Mujahid, the Arabic desk managing editor. [Text] [Cairo MENA in Arabic 1330 GMT 31 Jan 82 NC]

SADDAM HUSAYN VISITS BATTLEFRONT 29 JAN

JN291841 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1820 GMT 29 Jan 82

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Jan (INA) -- President Saddam Husayn has asserted that the Iraqi forces are capable of teaching the Persian enemy a lesson should it attempt to regain any of its lands. Addressing the military units in the central sector of the operations theater today, the president said that the Iraqi forces are capable of seizing any land and that the enemy must understand that it can never drive away any Iraqi military unit from its position, adding that the Iraqi units will stay in their positions until victory is achieved.

The president has once again urged the Iraqi forces to take care of the Iranian POW's and to treat them in accordance with the true and tolerant Islamic laws and human principles. The president gave an order that, under no circumstances, should any Iranian be harmed who gives himself up to the Iraqi forces to save himself from persecution in Iran. He held a number of meetings with the commanders and officers of military units.

VICE PRESIDENT MA'RUF RETURNS, MAKES STATEMENT

JN300926 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0740 GMT 30 Jan 82

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Jan (INA) -- Iraqi Vice President Taha Muhyi ad-Din Ma'ruf and his accompanying delegation returned here last night at the end of a 12-day tour during which he visited Vietnam, the Philippines and Singapore.

The vice president said that the talks he held in the three countries were successful and positive and will help in developing mutual cooperation. He said that the talks dealt with essential and important issues foremost of which were the Iraqi-Iranian conflict and the reasons which led the Iranian regime to declare its aggression against Iraq, to continue the shedding of blood, to refuse to respond to cease-fire calls and to accept a peaceful solution which guarantees Iraq's legitimate rights. The talks also dealt with Iraq's efforts to consolidate the Nonaligned Movement and the preparations taking place in Baghdad to host the upcoming nonaligned summit in September.

Ma'ruf added that the talks also dealt with the Palestinian people's struggle, their legitimate rights, the situation in the Arab Gulf, the Iranian regime's irresponsible behavior in the region and the general international situation.

Taha Muhyi ad-Din Ma'ruf held a press conference before he left Singapore yesterday afternoon in which he spoke about the Iraqi-Iranian conflict, Iraq's response to all the international initiatives calling for ending the war and the Iranian regime's insistence on prolonging the war which aims at undermining all Iraq's achievements and hindering Iraq's development.

The delegation included Hasan 'Ali, Revolution Command Council member and trade minister and a number of officials.

VICE PRESIDENT MA'RUF PAYS VISIT TO PHILIPPINES

For coverage of the 7-day visit of Vice President Taha Muyhyi ad-Din Ma'ruf to the Philippines, including the joint statement issued on 27 January at the conclusion of the visit, see the Philippines section of the 29 January Asia & Pacific DAILY REPORT.

QNA: HIGH-RANKING DELEGATION TO VISIT BAGHDAD

JN301957 Doha QNA in Arabic 1940 GMT 30 Jan 82

[Text] Amman, 30 Jan, (QNA) -- A QNA correspondent in Amman has learned that a high-ranking Jordanian delegation will visit Baghdad within the next 2 days to hold talks with senior Iraqi officials on means of further bolstering bilateral cooperation in different spheres.

KING RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM IRAQI PRESIDENT

JN301516 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 30 Jan 82

[Text] Amman -- His Majesty King Husayn received at Al-Hummar Palace today Sa'dun Shakir, Iraqi interior minister and Revolution Command Council member, who conveyed to his majesty a message from President Saddam Husayn.

In his message, the Iraqi president expressed the appreciation of the Iraqi leadership, army and people for His Majesty King Husayn's pan-Arab initiative of opening the door for voluntary service in support of the Iraqi people in their just war. The message also dealt with the region's developments and the close fraternal relations between the two countries.

COMMITTEE FORMED TO OVERSEE VOLUNTEERS

JN301939 Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 30 Jan 82

[Text] The Cabinet has decided to form a committee under Prime Minister Mudar Badran, including among its members the commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces and the ministers of information, finance and the interior, to follow up the implementation of His Majesty King Husayn's pan-Arab initiative opening the door for volunteers in the ranks of the Jordanian Arab Al-Yarmuk forces in support of fraternal Iraq in its pan-Arab battle, to make the necessary arrangements to facilitate and reinforce volunteering in these forces and to adopt financial and administrative measures to implement His Majesty King Husayn's initiative.

The Cabinet decided to open a special account in the Central Bank of Jordan to receive donations from various organizations and individuals for the Al-Yarmuk forces.

Prime Minister Mudar Badran also issued the following communique: The Cabinet has decided to reserve employment and financial rights of all civil servants in government ministries, departments and establishments who respond to the call of national duty of volunteering for the Al-Yarmuk forces. All volunteers are requested to inform their departments and to present themselves to the announced general mobilization [at-ta'bi'ah al-'ammah] centers.

AMAL, PALESTINIAN CONFRONTATION CONTINUES

NC291337 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 29 Jan 82

[Text] Official circles were surprised by the reports about the renewal of clashes around noon in some of the southern villages. For the past 2 days these villages had been the scene of gunfire exchanged between elements of the Amal movement and the Palestinians allied with the communists. The reasons [for the clashes] are the friction between the armed men and the murder of a Palestinian military official called Abu Jihad; this man is not Khalil al-Wazir. The clashes are also due to the kidnapping operations undertaken by both sides in the south and in the southern suburb of the capital, Beirut. It has been reported that during the night, the Palestinians and the communists kidnapped five members of Amal or pro-Amal elements in the southern suburb of Beirut; in return, two leftists were kidnapped.

A state of caution has prevailed in the villages of As-Siddiqin, 'Adlun, 'Ayn Qana and neighboring areas because of the funerals for the 11 persons killed yesterday. Sources of the UN forces have said that caution is prevailing in the area and that heavy firing has been reported in Kwayya; the reasons for this firing is unknown.

In Ba'labakk, shops and schools were closed in the township today in denunication of the Palestinian practices and to avoid a clash between armed groups.

More on Militia Battles

NC300819 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 30 Jan 82

[Text] The news reports about the south and the borders continue to be very disturbing. There are reports about Israeli concentrations between (Wadi Mura), near Dayr Mimas township, and (Tallat al-Hamamah), overlooking al-Mtullah and Nab' al-Wazzan. These concentrations also extend to the occupied Syrian township of (Al-Fajr). Trucks towing guns and others transporting ammunition and tanks equipped with 120- and 155-caliber guns have been seen.

There is a strong fear of a sudden Israeli incursion in the area, which would embarass Syria.

What is new in the south this morning is that fierce clashes are taking place in Bidyas between the Amal movement and the Palestinians and communists. Unconfirmed reports say that Amal personnel have occupied bases belonging to the Palestinians. The precise losses are not yet known.

At 0230 today there was a violent explosion on Hizzin Street in Sidon city near the power station. Preliminary reports indicate three persons have been killed and enormous material damaged has been sustained.

Some villages in the south endured another night of clashes. The fighting centered on the 'Abbasiyah area, Dayr Qanun an-Nahr, Ma'rakah, Al-Burj ash-Shamali and Burj ar-Rahhal. This increased the number of dead to 25 and the kidnapped to 15. More than 30 persons were wounded.

As a result of these clashes, the fighters commands have resorted to a new cease-fire. The Amal movement rejected one of the agreement's provisions that provides for stationing Fatah forces in all areas of tension.

Representatives of the Amal movement, DPFLP and Fatah held a meeting that continued late into the night in an attempt to implement the new agreement.

Quiet prevails in Ba'labakk as a result of the removal of the barriers and the deployment of joint patrols of the police and Deterrent Forces following a meeting held at the headquarters of the Communist Party in the city yesterday.

Officials Discuss Solutions

NC301359 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 30 Jan 82

[Excerpts] Official efforts are being focused on the developments in the south. A meeting was held for this purpose at noon today between the president and the prime minister.

The meeting between the president and the prime minister ended at 1330. Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Prime Minister al-Wazzan said: This was a weekly session to evaluate matters and developments and explore future steps. Undoubtedly, the present security situation in the south and the dangers surrounding it occupy most of our attention, and we are dealing with the situation on all levels.

Prime Minister al-Wazzan added: I have briefed President Sarkis on the contacts that I held with the parties concerned about the events taking place in the south. I hope these contacts will lead to the consolidation of the agreements pertaining to halting the incidents, which, as I said yesterday and before then, harm us on all levels and make it easy for Israel to commit any action or aggression, if it seeks to carry out its aggression, which we fear.

The Prime Minister added: We pin all our hopes now on halting these incidents, so that we may actually be able to rearrange our conditions.

Answering a question on the futility of the various remedies, the prime minister said: they lead to a result but there are some who work for stirring the sedition again. This is a notice to us that there are always indisciplined elements which infiltrate the ranks to achieve objectives other than those sought by the citizens.

Prime Minister al-Wazzan confirmed that he has held contacts with Yasir 'Arafat and that he intends to resume the contacts with the other parties in an attempt to end this state of affairs.

ISRAELI 'CONCENTRATIONS' SPUR OFFICIAL CONCERN

NC301316 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 30 Jan 82

[Text] Foreign Ministry sources have confirmed that there have been diplomatic reports from some Western states strongly warning Lebanon that there might be a large-scale Israeli operation before April. Observers link this information with the intensified Israeli concentrations along the border. Tens of armored cars and mounted 106-, 120- and 155-caliber guns have been installed on the heights overlooking most of the villages in the south and on the Kafr Hamam hills.

The situation remains tense as a result of the clashes that resumed yesterday and during which 25 people died and more than 30 were wounded. The clashes between the Amal movement and the Palestinians occurred in the villages of Bidyas, Dayr Qanun an-Nahr, Ma'rakah, Burj Rahhal and Al-Burj ash-Shamali. Amal official Musa Sa'ad was killed in one of the battles. Contacts have failed to ease the dispute since the Amal movement rejected a proposal that armed Fatah personnel be stationed in the areas of the clashes. However, a leader of one of the leftist parties ascertained at noon today that Fatah personnel have assumed the task of maintaining the cease-fire in the areas of the clashes.

In Mtullah township, an UN forces spokesman said that the UN emergency forces exchanged gunfire with unknown armed men in the sector under the control of the Fijian contingent south of Tyre city. The emergency forces sustained no losses.

PARTIES IN SOUTH AGREE ON NEW CEASE-FIRE ACCORD

NC300730 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 30 Jan 82

[Text] Following yesterday's renewal of clashes between armed organizations in the south, particularly in 'Abbasiyah, Dayr Qanun an-Nahr, Burj Rahhal and Ma'rakah, the national action coordination committee in the south held a special meeting last night. The committee discussed the reasons for the renewed fighting and reached a new draft agreement on ending the tension.

The agreement provides for a cease-fire, the setting up of stationary barriers and the deployment of patrols as of today to ensure safe movement in all areas of the clashes. The agreement also provides for returning Siddiqin Base to Fatah and for ending armed manifestations.

This agreement comes in the wake of the renewal of the clashes less than 24 hours after the cease-fire agreement which was concluded the day before yesterday. The renewal of the clashes led to more victims. The concerned security quarters estimate that 7 persons were killed and 25 others were wounded in yesterday's clashes, bringing the total number of persons killed in the clashes yesterday and the day before to 25. Political, party and security efforts are continuing to contain the clashes.

Quiet prevails in Ba'labakk al-Hirmil, where Arab Deterrent and internal security forces patrols are deployed in the streets. It has been noticed that armed manifestations have disappeared from the main and secondary streets in Ba'labakk.

PALESTINIANS MAINTAIN MEDIATION EFFORTS

JN311555 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in English 1500 GMT 21 Jan 82

[Text] In the context of Palestinian efforts in the south, PLO Chairman 'Arafat has met with representatives of the Lebanese Government and is expected to meet today with representatives of the Higher Shi'ites Islamic Council and the Amal movement.

Fatah Central Committee members Abu al-Walid [Sa'd Sayil] and Abu al-Hawl [Hayil 'Abd al-Hamid] have also participated in the efforts.

Meanwhile, in the south today, armed manifestations are being removed and patrols of the Palestinian revolution forces have been stationed along the main roads of the area where clashes took place.

OFFICIALS STUDY PLO LETTER ON ARMS LIMITATIONS

PM291135 Beirut AN-NAHAR in Arabic 24 Jan 82 p 2

[Emile Khuri report: "Foreign Ministry To Reply to 'Arafat's Memo to Arab League; Memo Considers Committee Resolutions Concern Lebanese Forces and Nothing To Do With Cairo Agreement"]

[Excerpt] The Lebanese Foreign Ministry is waiting to receive [presumably through direct channels] a copy of the memorandum which PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat sent Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi regarding the decision by the Arab Follow-up Committee to set up a body to control Lebanese ports and the Lebanese coast in order to prevent the entry of arms to any party with the exception of the legitimate authority, so that it may reply to this memorandum.

The Foreign Ministry has obtained a copy of this memo through its representative at the Arab League and its contents were the topic of discussion at a meeting attended by several ministers and officials.

The five-page Palestinian memorandum says the following, among other things:

"First, we in the PLO previously supported the formation of the Follow-up Committee and often declared our readiness to facilitate its difficult task in Lebanon as well as to offer everything possible for its success, within the framework of agreements already concluded with the legitimate authority. We also pledged not to cooperate in anything that might enable the Zionist enemy to bring pressure to bear on, and to commit aggression against, Lebanese territories and against the Palestinian and Lebanese masses proceeding from an Arab commitment and in adherence to the principle of legitimate self-defense.

"Second, the relations of the PLO, including its establishments, machinery, and forces, with the legitimate Lebanese authority are governed by official agreements concluded between the two sides, which are the Cairo agreements and their supplements. These agreements were ratified by the Arab League. Obviously such agreements cannot be abrogated, or changed or their provisions altered except through consultation by the signatory parties and with the knowledge of the Arab League.

"Third, out of our desire for the Follow-up Committee's work to succeed and trusting that what I said in the above clause is clear and plain to all the committee members, we are confident that our brother committee members wish Lebanon and Palestine well.

"Fourth, the statements that were made following the recent committee meeting and the decisions announced by the Lebanese prime minister in our view concern certain Lebanese forces and, therefore, these agreements [presumably reached by the committee] and measures are in no way connected with the legal and lawful relations between the Lebanese legitimate authority and the PLO provided for in the Cairo agreements and their supplements. This includes, and in particular concerns, matters governing the Palestinian armed presence, the movement and arming of Palestinians, and all the administrative, supply, and social and other services that may be necessary as provided for by the Cairo agreements and their supplements.

"Fifth, if we leave aside the legal aspect of Lebanese-Palestinian relations and the relations between the PLO and the Arab Follow-up Committee, I would like, Mr Secretary General, to remind you that the Palestinian revolution and the forces belonging to it have been facing Israeli military attacks of the most violent kind in southern Lebanese villages and camps and these attacks and threats of attack are still continuing. Therefore, would any Arab person think of restricting the Palestinian revolution's strength and prevent it from obtaining the arms it needs to defend its existence and the security of the Lebanese and Palestinian masses against the Zionist enemy's repeated aggressions against Lebanon, the gravest of which was the recent enemy air raid on the residential area in Beirut and the destruction of bridges, roads and camps as well as the razing of villages in the south that went on for 15 days? All of this was preceded by an 11-month-long war of attrition that went on until the enemy declared his acceptance of a cease-fire through the United Nations.

"I must point out here that there are some who are trying to interpret the Arab Follow-up Committee resolutions as an implementation of the U.S. declared plan to encircle the Syrian presence [in Lebanon] and disarm the Palestinians in Lebanon as well as to prevent the PLO from obtaining arms at a time when agent Sa'd Haddad is inviting the enemy army to occupy all of southern Lebanon and launch an attack on the bases of our fighters and the camps and villages of our kinsfolk there.

"I believe the Arab Follow-up Committee resolutions will pave the way to the realization of Lebanese detente which is inevitable so that the legitimate authority in Lebanon may become stronger, security and safety may be achieved for the Lebanese people, and Lebanon's sovereignty, unity and integrity of its territory and people may be achieved."

AL-JUMAYYIL RENEWS SECURITY OFFER TO AL-WAZZAN

NC301434 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 30 Jan 82

[Excerpts] Pierre al-Jumayyil believes it is time to frankly tell the whole truth to the public. He said: I invite Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan to a television debate so that we can frankly tell the truth to the Lebanese citizens, because the current conditions demand that there should be one voice emanating from the two flanks of Lebanon to unify their line, aim and stand. The situation in Lebanon can no longer bear any division of ranks or confusion.

The phalangist leader added: I previously invited the government, in all loyalty and sincerity, to assume its duties in the eastern areas. If the government does not do so, I do not blame it but I ask it to explain to the people all the reasons and facts which have prevented or prevent it from assuming the security duties. If I want further clarification, I will ask the Lebanese authority to frankly tell us whether our destiny is subject to our will or to the will of others and consequently why we let the Lebanese citizens live in illusions and comfort themselves with promises at times or with the initiatives and the Arab Followup Committee at others, when the truth is absolutely the opposite. I sincerely believe the time has come for us -- Muslims and Christians -- to adopt a unified stand, because if all of do not say what we want frankly in one voice with a unified opinion and if the Christians and Muslims continue to declare their separate stands, then there will be no authority or government because the government, in its general concept, derives its strength from the unified will of the people and not from the divided will or no will of the people.

AL-WAZZAN DISCUSSES SECURITY IN PHALANGIST AREAS

NC011055 Beirut Domestic Serivce in Arabic 1000 GMT 1 Feb 82

[Text] Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan has held a meeting at the government palace with Army Commander Gen Victor Khuri, Internal Security Forces Director General Staff Maj Gen Ahmad al-Haj and Public Security Director General Faruq Abu al-Lam'. They discussed the results of the contacts they have been making in implementation of what the prime minister had asked them to do in the wake of the statement which Phalangist leader Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil made about 2 weeks ago.

TRIPOLI SHOPS SHUT DOWN IN SOLIDARITY STRIKE

NC011110 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 1 Feb 82

[Text] A general close-down involving stores, markets and banks took place in Tripoli today in solidarity with the pressed-wood factory and in response to a call by the general federation of workers and the federation of trade unions in the north.

'RESPONSIBLE SOURCE' SCORES HUSAYN'S INITIATIVE

JN311543 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1505 GMT 31 Jan 82

[Text] Damascus, 31 Jan (SANA) -- A responsible source has stated the following: A few days ago, King Husayn of Jordan opened the door for Jordanian volunteers to fight against the Islamic revolution in Iran.

This theatrical announcement is absolutely worthless and does not change the balance of power. It is political propaganda which will harm Jordan and the Islamic revolution in Iran, which, since its victory, has been pooling its resources in support of the Arab cause against Zionism.

The claim behind this propaganda announcement is to shift attention from the basic battle against the Zionist enemy and its allies and the duty to liberate Jerusalem and the rest of the occupied Arab territories. It is also aimed at paving the way for Israel to entrench its occupation of the Arab territories. It constitutes an evasion of all pan-Arab commitments dictated by the battle against the Israeli occupation forces.

The Arab citizen wonders about the purpose of volunteering to fight against the Islamic revolution in Iran when the Jordanian border is closed to the Fedayeen, who want to cross to occupied Palestine to fight Israel.

Would it not be better to open the border to Fedayeen activities and to work sincerely for the achievement of Arab solidarity in struggle and a unified Arab stand that is continuously capable of facing and deterring aggression?

We strongly believe this political propaganda announcement is no more than an attempt to soak up the sweeping public vengeance against the Jordanian regime, which is seeking to provoke Syria, oppose its pan-Arab struggle line and fabricate sideshows which will only benefit the enemies of the Arab nation.

Those behind the political propaganda announcement in Amman are only trying to further involve Iraq and waste the remainder of its resources in a painful and a regrettable war, which does not serve any Arab interest. It would have been better if the Jordanian regime had tried instead to exert intensive and sincere efforts to end this war, which we opposed and whose initiator we condemned right from the start.

What the Jordanian regime is doing will most certainly help our enemies in weakening Arab ranks and confusing the Arab citizens. It avoids the main battle, which the Amman regime has been captalizing on without making a single effort to prepare for it. As matter of fact, this regime is sabotaging every effort for this battle and is, in short, ignoring the enemy occupying our land and running after another.

We, in Syria, and from the position of pan-Arab responsibility, condemn this theatrical political announcement. We believe the battle is one against Israel and for the sake of liberating the occupied Arab territories and regaining the Palestinian people's rights and not against the Islamic revolution in Iran, which is siding with the Arab nation and which is determined to fight alongside the Arab nation against imperialism and Zionism.

Just as the previous Jordanian regime's steps against the joint Arab action were exposed, these steps are now more overt and exposed thanks to the vigilance of the Arab citizen in Jordan and in the other Arab countries.

REPORTS CONFLICT ON STATUS OF MAJ GEN NAJI JAMIL

Kuwait Paper Reports Execution

GF311144 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 30 Jan 82 p 1

[Text] Amman -- Official Jordanian sources have affirmed that Maj Gen Naji Jamil, former Syrian deputy minister of defense and commander of the air force and Air Defense Corps, was executed in Damascus a few days ago, and that 10 army brigadier generals and 140 junior officers were arrested for their involvement in a coup attempt and a mutiny in the Third Division stationed in Dar'a. The sources said that Brig Gen Sami al-Khuli and Maj Gen 'Ali Aslan, who were contacted by those planning the coup attempt, alerted the authorities and thus the coup attempt was foiled.

Naji Jamil had resigned in April 1978 and Brig Gen Sbuhi Haddad was appointed in his place. It was then reported that Naji Jamil resigned for health reasons.

AL-QABAS has tried to contact Syrian officials to verify the official Jordanian reports on Naji Jamil's execution but was met with silence and was referred to a statement made by an official Syrian source last Wednesday in which he said that "these reports are unfounded" and that "the age of coups had gone for good some years ago."

Government Spokesman's Denial

JN301736 Monte Carlo Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1710 GMT 30 Jan 82

[Excerpt] A spokesman for the Syrian Government has described the reports on Maj Gen Naji Jamil, former Syrian commander in chief of the air force, as nonsense, reflecting the dreams of Syria's enemies. Kuwaiti paper AL-QABAS quoted Jordanian sources as saying that Maj Gen Naji Jamil was executed a few days ago following the failure of the attempted coup in Syria. The Syrian authorities denied this story of the attempted coup.

Naji Jamil Attends Meeting

JN301911 Damascus Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1840 GMT 30 Jan 82

[Text] Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, has received the members of the General Command of the popular liberation war vanguards organization, As-Sa'iqah forces, in the presence of Comrade Naji Jamil, member of the National Command and chairman of the Fedayeen work office [maktab al-'amal al-fida'i] and Comrade 'Isan al-Qadi, regional secretary of the Palestinian Organization and As-Sa'iqah secretary general.

As-Sa'iqah's working plans were reviewed. The participants also outlined the organization's missions in the Palestinian arena and in the Arab struggle against the imperialist-Zionist aggression and U.S. schemes to liquidate the Palestinian cause. They also reviewed the current developments in the Arab region, particularly the Zionist entity's annexation of the Golan and its preparations for launching new aggressive measures in accordance with its expansionist plans. The participants then discussed the requirements to face these developments mainly by further supporting the Palestinian revolution's forces, massing and mobilizing the Arab nation's potentials in order to back the main confrontation base, represented by Syria, to stand in the face of this continued aggression, liberate Palestine and defend the Arab nation's future and fate.

The participants then discussed As-Sa'iqah's role in cooperation with the Palestinian revolution's factions within the PLO framework under its leadership, in its capacity as the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative, in order to firmly face all the liquidation attempts, drop the treasonous Camp David scheme, continue the struggle to liberate the occupied Arab territories and bring about the constant rights of the Palestinian Arab people, particularly their right to return to their homeland and establish their own independent state in Palestine.

Comrade 'Isam al-Qadi, As-Sa'iqah secretary general, asserted that the organization's various formations and strugglers are carrying out the [Ba'th] party instructions. He added that all of us are at the beck and call of the party's leadership and its secretary general, militant leader President Hafiz al-Asad, to implement all struggle missions to achieve liberation and victory and to build a unified socialist Arab society.

AL-ASAD OFFERS CONDOLENCES ON SUSLOV DEATH

JN281554 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1445 GMT 28 Jan 82

[Text] Damascus, 28 Jan (SANA) -- 'Abd al-Karim 'Adi, minister of state for presidential affairs, this afternoon visited the Soviet Embassy in Damascus where he conveyed condolences on behalf of President Hafiz al-Asad on the death of Comrade Mikhail Suslov, CPSU Central Committee Politburo secretary.

BA'TH PARTY OFFICIAL MEETS SOVIET AMBASSADOR

JN271956 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1910 GMT 27 Jan 82

[Text] Damascus, 27 Jan (SANA) -- Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, today received the USSR ambassador in Damascus. Talks dealt with several issues related to the program of cooperation between the Ba'th Party and the CPSU.

COOPERATION DISCUSSED WITH ROMANIAN OFFICIALS

JN311535 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1400 GMT 31 Jan 82

[Text] Damascus, 31 Jan (SANA) -- 'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah, deputy prime minister for economic affairs, received here today Ion Stanescu, minister state secretary in the Romanian Ministry of Industrial Construction, and his delegation. The meeting was attended by the Romanian ambassador in Damascus.

Stanescu handed Qaddurah a message from Oprea, the Romanian first deputy prime minister.

During this meeting, the two sides reviewed means of promoting economic and technical relations between the two countries and the industrial projects which have been implemented in accordance with the cooperation agreement between the two countries. These projects include the Baniyas refinery, Ash-Shaykh Sa'id cement factory and other projects.

CABINET APPROVES EUROPEAN PARTICIPATION IN MFO

TA311212 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 31 Jan 82

[Text] The Cabinet has approved the participation of the four European countries in the Multinational Force and Observers [MFO] which will oversee the peace treaty in Sinai. Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir briefed the ministers on the clarifications that had been received from U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig during his visit to Israel. These clarifications are based on an exchange of letters between Secretary Haig and the European countries and a letter from the U.S. secretary of state to Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir.

The Cabinet also heard a briefing by Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon and the chief of staff about the terrorist penetration in the Mehola area in the Jordan valley at the end of the week. Following the briefings, the Cabinet held a debate.

FOREIGN MINISTRY CRITICIZES SYRIAN PEACE PLAN

TA011118 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 1 Feb 82

[Text] The Jerusalem Foreign Ministry says that the Syrian peace plan is nothing but a pure propaganda exercise. Ministry spokesman Avi Pazner said in reply to a question by our political correspondent that in the explanatory remarks by the Syrian minister of information in a Lebanese paper there was no mention of agreement to conduct negotiations for peace with Israel or of recognizing it. The Syrian minister did not contradict President as-Asad's declarations that Syria would not conduct peace negotiations with Israel. The spokesman repeated Israel's position that it is prepared to conduct negotiations without preconditions with all its neighbors.

POST Report

TA010557 Jersualem POST in English 1 Feb 82 pp 1, 2

[Report by Mideast affairs correspondent David Bernstein]

[Excerpts] Syrian Information Minister Ahmad Iskandar Ahmad has spelled out three "fundamental elements" -- including an end to the state of war between Arabs and Israel -- that could lead to a "just, lasting and comprehensive peace" in the Middle East.

In an interview in the latest issue of the Lebanese-English language weekly MONDAY MORNING, cited in news agency reports from Beirut last night, Ahmad said that the three elements that could lead to such a peace were:

-- Israel's withdrawal from all territories occupied in 1967;

-- "Confirmation" of the right of the Palestinians, under the leadership of the PLO, to self-determination, and of their right to an "independent Palestinian state on Palestinian soil;" and

-- The "termination of the state of war between the Arabs and Israel."

When reports of the Syrian plan were first broadcast over Israel radio, consultations were held in the Foreign Ministry, involving Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, and Director General David Kimche. They decided that the Foreign Ministry would issue no reaction, official or unofficial, until a text of the Syrian statement was in their hands.

While scarcely a "peace plan," as it was termed in some reports from Beirut, Ahmad's three elements are seen as representing a shift in the Syrian position.

Having failed to win support for its compromising position in the Security Council last month, Damascus now appears to be seeking to strike a more "moderate" posture in the General Assembly.

But more fundamentally, the apparent shift in the Syrian position seems to be the result of Damascus' growing impotence in the inter-Arab arena.

Observers believe that for the time being Damascus has ruled out the possibility of a military response to Israel's latest challenge on the Golan.

Ahmad appeared to indicate as much in his MONDAY MORNING interview, admitting that while the Golan "was occupied by force and will be regained by force," this did "not mean military force only -- but also economic and political force."

But Syria's efforts to wage an effective economic and diplomatic offensive against Israel, already blocked in the Security Council, show little sign of faring better in the Arab world.

Saudi Arabia, in particular, has served notice that it will oppose Syria's declared intention of imposing an Arab economic boycott on the U.S. and its Western allies in a move to force them into putting pressure on Israel to repeal the Golan Law.

The Saudis have also made it clear to Syria and the other radical Arab states which opposed its own eight-point peace plan at Fes last November that this remains the most effective weapon in the Arab diplomatic arsenal.

Syria led the opposition at Fes. But there have been reports recently that its opposition may be weakening, and even some Saudi suggestions that Syria is beginning to see some merit in the Saudi strategy.

Damascus has yet to confirm that it has, in fact, shifted its ground on the Saudi initiative. But Ahmad's remarks in MONDAY MORNING could be the first Syrian admission, if only for lack of any other option, that it is prepared to consider a serious diplomatic offensive against Israel along the lines of the Saudi plan.

BEGIN SPEAKS TO CABINET ON AUTONOMY ISSUE

TA311671 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 31 Jan 82

[Excerpt] Now autonomy affairs: The significance of the U.S. proposal to grant the right to vote for the autonomy institutions to inhabitants of east Jerusalem means repartitioning the capital into two cities: one Arab and one Jewish. This was said today by Prime Minister Menahem Begin when he reported to the ministers on his talks with Alexander Haig. Today the Cabinet also approved the participation of four European countries in the Sinai Multinational Force and Observers [MFO]. Here is our political correspondent Gad Becker with a report:

[Becker] There is no point in raising once again ideas about autonomy which deviate from the Camp David framework, ideas which were already discussed and rejected in the past. This was said today by Prime Minister Menahem Begin when he was reporting to the ministers on his talks with Alexander Haig. We rejected the proposal to grant the right to vote to inhabitants of east Jerusalem, the prime minister related, because such a proposal would lead to a repartition of Jerusalem into a Jewish city and an Arab city.

The evaluation heard in the Cabinet today says that the Americans will continue with the efforts to achieve an agreement, despite the fact that such an agreement about autonomy before April does not appear to be on the horizon. The prime minister quoted an interview with Husni Mubarak, in which the Egyptian president said Egypt would not join in a war if one broke out between Israel and Syria. Mr Begin said that in this way the objective was achieved of removing Egypt from the circle of war. Israel, too, the prime minister again emphasized, would fulfill all its commitments and would evacuate Sinai on time.

We will not agree to use weapons against Jews in Yamit, Menahem Begin said, but if it is necessary to evauate the people from there, we will do so and in time.

POST: AUTONOMY PROPOSALS OFFICIALLY PUBLISHED

TA010630 Jerusalem POST in English 1 Feb 82 pp 1, 2

[Report by the dimplomatic reporter]

[Text] Israel's position on autonomy for the Arabs of Judaea, Samaria and Gaza were officially published last night by the Government Press Office in Jerusalem.

The Prime Minister's Office gave the order to publish, although the Foreign Ministry last week had agreed at the request of the U.S. State Department to withhold the material.

The document said that Israel's positions on autonomy indicated its readiness to observe the Camp David agreement "fully and in every detail, in letter and in spirit, while safeguarding the interests of all concerned." Israel's proposals in the autonomy negotiations.

A: In the Camp David agreement signed on 17 September 1978 between Egypt and Israel, with the United States signing as a witness, agreement was reached on a plan for the solution of the problem of the Palestinian Arabs, that includes a proposal for full autonomy for the Palestinian Arabs living in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza. The manner of establishing this autonomy, as well as its powers, were to be determined in negotiations between the signatories. (Jordan was invited to participate, but did not respond.) It was Israel that first raised the idea of autonomy that was later to serve as the basis of the Camp David agreement. For the first time in history of the Palestinian Arab inhabitants of Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza district, they were offered an opportunity of this kind to conduct their own affairs by themselves. Since 1979, talks have been held for the implementation of this agreement. There were intermissions in the negotiations, but talks were resumed intensively in the summer of 1981, leading to a thoroughgoing clarification of the positions of the parties. At these talks Israel put forward its proposals with regard to the self-governing authority (administrative council) its powers, responsibilities and structure as well as other related issues.

B: The main points of Israel's proposals, as submitted in the course of the negotiations were as follows:

1. Scope, jurisdiction and structure of the self-government authority (administrative council):

(A) The Camp David accords set forth the establishment of a self-governing authority (administrative council) that will comprise one body representing the Arab inhabitants of Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza district, who will choose this body in free elections, and it will assume those functional powers that will be transferred to it. Thus the Palestinian Arabs will for the first time have an elected and representative body, in accordance with their own wishes and free choice, that will be able to carry out the functions assigned to it as an administrative council.

(B) The members of the administrative council will be able, as a group, to discuss all subjects within the council's competence, apportioning among themselves the spheres of responsibility for the various functions. Within the domain of its assigned powers and responsibilities, the council will be responsible for planning and carrying out its activities.

2. Powers of the self-governing authority (administrative council):

(A) Under the terms of the Camp David agreement, the parties have to reach an agreement on the powers and responsibilities of the authority. Israel's detailed proposals include a list of powers that will be given to the authority and that, by any reasonable and objective criterion, represent a wide and comprehensive range of fields of operation. Without any doubt, the transferring of these powers constitutes the bestowal of full-autonomy -- in the full meaning of that term.

(B) The powers to be granted the authority, under these proposals, are in the following domains:

1. Administration of justice -- supervision of the administrative system of the courts in the areas, dealing with matters connected with the prosecution system and with the registration of companies, partnerships, patents, trademarks, etc.

2. Agriculture -- all branches of agriculture and fisheries, nature reserves and parks.

3. Finance -- budget of the administrative council and allocations among its various divisions, taxation.

4. Civil service -- appointment and working conditions of the council's employees. (Today, the civil service of the inhabitants of Judaea, Samaria and Gaza, within the framework of the Military Government Civilian Administration, numbers about 12,000 persons.)

5. Education and culture -- operation, of the network of schools, in the areas, from kindergarten to higher education, supervision of culture, artistic and sporting activities.

6. Health -- supervision of hospitals and clinics, operation of sanitary and other services related to public health.

7. Housing and public works -- construction, housing for the inhabitants and public works projects.

8. Transportation and communcations -- maintenance and coordination of transport, road traffic, meterology, local postal and communications services.

9. Labour and social welfare -- welfare, labour and employment services, including the operation of labour exchanges.

10. Municipal affairs -- matters concerning municipalities and their effective operation.

11. Local police -- operation of a strong local police force, as provided for in the Camp David agreement, and a maintenance of prisons for criminal offenders sentenced by the courts in the areas.

12. Religious affairs -- provision and maintenance of religious facilities for all religious communities among the Arab inhabitants of Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza district.

13. Industry, commerce and tourism -- development of industry, commerce workshops and tourist services.

The council will have full powers in its spheres of competence to determine its budget, to enter into contractual obligations, to sue and be sued and to engage manpower. It will, moreover, have wide powers to promulgate regulations, as required by a body of this kind. In the nature of things, in view of the free movement that will prevail between Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza district and Israel and for the general welfare of the inhabitants, arrangements will be agreed upon in the negotiations in a number of domains, for cooperation and coordination with Israel. The administrative council will, hence, have full scope to exercise its wide-ranging powers under the terms of the autonomy agreement. These powers embrace all walks of life, and will enable the inhabitants of the areas concerned to enjoy full autonomy. The size of the administrative council must reflect its functions and its essential purpose: It is an administrative council whose representative character finds expression in its establishment through free elections, by the Arab inhabitants of Judaea, Samaria and Gaza. Clearly, the criterion for determining the number of its members must be the functions that the council is empowered to perform. We propose, therefore, that the number of members will conform with the functions listed above.

4. Free elections: Elections to the administrative council, under Israel's proposals will be absolutely free, as stipulated in the Camp David agreement. Under the terms of the agreement, the parties will agree upon the modalities of the elections, as a matter of fact, in past negotiations a long list of principles and guidelines has already been prepared in this matter. In these free elections, all the rights pertaining to peaceful assembly, freedom of expression and secret balloting will be preserved and assured, and all necessary steps will be taken to prevent any interference with the election process. The holding of an absolutely free and unhampered election process will thus be assured in full, under the law, and in keeping with the tradition of free elections practised in democratic societies. These elections will, in many respects, constitute a new departure in the region around us which in most of its parts is not too close to the ways of democracy, and in which free elections are a rare phenomenon. It is of some interest, therefore, to note that Judaea, Samaria and Gaza, under Israel's Military Government since 1967, have exemplified the practical possibility of totally free elections in these areas. In 1972, and again in 1976. Israel organized free elections in these areas based on the tradition and model of its own democratic and liberal tradition and custom. Voters and elected officials alike concede that these were free elections in the fullest sense. The elections in the administrative council will be organized and supervised by a central elections committee whose composition has been agreed upon by the parties.

5. Time of elections and establishment of the self-governing authority (administrative council).

The elections will be held as expeditiously as possible after agreement will have been reached on the autonomy. This was set forth in the joint letter of the late President as-Sadat and of Prime Minister Begin to President Carter, dated 26 March 1979, setting forth the manner in which the self-governing authority (administrative council) is to be established, under the terms of the Camp David agreement.

6. Within one month following the elections, the self-governing authority (administrative council) is to be established and inaugurated, and at that time the transitional period of five years will begin -- again, in conformity with the Camp David agreement and the joint letter.

7. Hence, every effort will be made to hold elections without delay, once an agreement is reached, to be followed by the establishment of the self-governing authority (administrative council).

8. Following the elections and the establishment of the self-governing authority (administrative council) the Military Government and its Civilian Administration will be withdrawn, a withdrawal of Israeli Armed Forces will take place, and there will be a redeployment of the remaining Israeli forces into specified security locations, in full conformity with the Camp David agreement. Israel will present to the other parties in the negotiations the map of redeployment. It goes without saying that all this will be done for the purpose of safeguarding the security of Israel as well as of the Arab inhabitants of Judaea, Samaria and Gaza and of the Israeli citizens residing in these areas.

9. All of the above indicates Israel's readiness to observe the Camp David agreement fully and in every detail, in letter and spirit, while safeguarding the interests of all concerned.

MA'ARIV SHARIF COMMENTARY ON HAIG MISSION

TA291254 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 29 Jan 82 p 17

[Yosef Harif commentary: "There Is No Room Even To Think, Begin Said After Haig Had Raised 'Food for Thought' on the Matter of Jerusalem"]

[Excerpt] The fact that Haig started his visit in Israel, not in Egypt, does not per se mean that the U.S. administration thinks that the place where pressure must be put is Jerusalem, not Cairo. The reason for beginning Haig's "second round" in the area in Jerusalem springs from a completely different consideration: We made the calculation, the Americans disclosed to their Israeli interlocutors, that if we begin the tour in Egypt and only after that come to Israel, we will find ourselves here on the Sabbath....

But the fact that Haig opened his talks here on the matter of Jerusalem is undoubtedly of special significance. When he said the Egyptians were insisting that the inhabitants of east Jerusalem should be granted the right to elect the autonomy institutions, it is obvious he took into account their traditional position that east Jerusalem is "Arab Jerusalem," as As-Sadat also constantly claimed. Haig, then, knowingly began with the most difficult issue. He assumed that if he achieved a breakthrough here, it would justify the very fact of his visit to the area.

And he felt the need to justify his visit, because he had recently received messages from Egyptian President Husni Mubarak expressing amazement at his intention to come to the area and advised him to postpone the visit. Mubarak had a convincing reason, superficially, he claimed that, after all, he himself, Mubarak, was due to go to Washington at the beginning of next month, so what, then, was the point of Haig's visit to Cairo now? But Haig insisted.

What could be the reason for Mubarak's trying to avoid a meeting with Haig?

Mubarak is not now ready for a talk about autonomy, certainly not under the current conditions, not only because of the reason he gave to Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon 10 days ago and according to which he does not see any point in negotiating with Israel over autonomy when Israel is plunged into the trauma involved in the evacuation of the rest of Sinai.

Mubarak has another reason, no less convincing from his viewpoint, for why he should not get into autonomy talks now: As far as is known, he asked Saudi Arabia and the "moderate" Arab countries such as Jordan and the Gulf states for a "chance" until after April 1982 -- the completion of the Israeli Sinai withdrawal. He was given that "chance." It is true, as Mubarak said, that he does intend to adhere to the peace agreement with Israel even after April 1982, but there is a great distance between this and filling the peaceful relations with Israel with genuine contents. In any event, as a price for renewing relations with Egypt, Saudi Arabia is demanding two things from Cairo: no autonomy and no normalization of relations with Israel. Saudi Arabia also knows that it is not so simple for Egypt to get out of the peace treaty with Israel, but it is insisting on these two "noes" -- no autonomy and no normalization.

Haig has "imposed" himself and they must speak with him. And they will have to discuss these issues again during Mubarak's visit to Washington. But, from a practical viewpoint -- this is a thoroughly unnecessary visit.

If there is any chance at all of making progress in the autonomy talks, it lies in a prior clarification that Haig must make in Cairo: Does Egypt, like Israel, intend to have an autonomy on administrative foundations, or does it intend to have genuine "self-determination" -- that is, a Palestinian state.

INFILTRATION CONSTITUTES CEASE-FIRE VIOLATION

TA302013 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 30 Jan 82

[Text] Authoritative sources in Jerusalem said this evening that Israel regards the infiltration attempt carried out by the terrorists in the Mehola area as a grave violation of the cease-fire Israel agreed to over the Lebanese situation last summer. Our political correspondent, Shim'on Schiffer, has learned from these sources that the prime minister and defense minister repeated their warning to U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig during his recent visits to the region that the terrorist organizations are violating the cease-fire in actions against the territory controlled by Major Haddad and in their continued deployment, including the addition of long-range cannons to their units. Now the breach in the cease-fire is continuing in an attempt to carry out an action against Israel from Jordanian territory. Our correspondent estimates that Israel will draw U.S. attention to the gravity with which it views the action of the terrorist squad which belongs to the central PLO organization, the Fatah, and not to marginal organizations. The squad in question crossed the Jordan River 28 January. After the squad planted mines on the road near the border fence some of its members returned to Jordan. The three other members were caught today. Two of them were captured after being injured in a clash with IDF soldiers. The third was caught inside the village of Tayasir in eastern Samaria.

MA'ARIV Report

TA010835 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 1 Feb 82 pp 1, 15

[Report by Ya'aqov Erez]

[Text] In the wake of the increased tension in the north after the infiltration of the terrorist squad into the Jordan Valley, security experts are saying that the infiltration of the squad -- which is in itself grave -- is not sufficient reason to open a counteroffensive against the terrorist bases in Lebanon. These remarks were made after official elements in Jerusalem described the squad's infiltration as most grave and Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said yesterday, in an interview with Israeli television, that "Israel will take measures following the violation to the cease-fire agreement."

Reserves Lt Gen Mordekhay Gur, who is a member of the Knesset Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee, said last night that calm was being kept in the north in general and therefore Israel should not rush to take any action that would shatter this calm.

At one time Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon told the Knesset Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee that Israel would only act in a massive [last word in English] way if the terrorists were to initiate a series of actions. Military sources regard the infiltration of the squad from Jordan as a terrorist attempt to work inside Israeli territory. In this way the terrorists tried to bring in many weapons to Samaria in order to make terrorist actions possible.

With all this, and despite the gravity with which the squad's infiltration should be regarded, Reserves Lt Gen Mordekhay Gur said that official elements had explained that they would not be provoked into altering the prevailing situation in the north.

Security experts are saying that various elements are trying to initiate a military action before 26 April in order to, among other things, check out Egypt's reaction to such an action.

Israel has explained to Jordan the gravity with which it views the infiltration of the terrorist squad and asked that Jordan take efficient measures to prevent the repetition of such incidents.

TV ON PROPOSED MEETING BETWEEN PLO, RAKAH

TA312004 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 31 Jan 82

[Text] Senior PLO figures headed by 'Isam Sartawi, examined several months ago the possibility of inviting a delegation of Israeli functionaries affiliated with the peace camp, as well as RAKAH notables, for a meeting with PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat. Our party affairs correspondent, Nisim Mis'al, reports it was suggested that the Israeli delegation appear before the National Palestinian Council which convened in Damascus, where the meeting with Yasir 'Arafat had been planned, to discuss with him the Palestinian problem. Our correspondent adds the idea of the meeting fell through at the last minute, due to RAKAH's refusal to take part in this delegation.

Mr Uri Avneri, editor of HA'ALOM HAZE, confirmed to our correspondent this evening that PLO notables indeed examined such a possibility with him before the last Knesset elections, with purpose of aiding the peace camp in the election campaign. Mr Avaneri said that of RAKAH had not refused to take part in the delegation, the idea would have been realized.

DRUZE, ISRAELI LEFTISTS PROTEST GOLAN LAW

TA301852 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 30 Jan 82

[Text] Druze residents and Israeli leftists staged demonstrations on the Golan Heights today to protest the extension of Israeli law to the Golan. Our correspondent, Yo'el Dar, reports that more than 100 people participated in the demonstration in Majdal Shams during which posters were put up in condemnation of the so-called Israeli occupation and in favour of returning the Golan to Syria. The demonstrators dispersed by order of the Galilee district police commander and nobody was detained.

The Israeli participants in the demonstration, members of the committee of solidarity with the Bi'r Zayt University, arrived in the Golan in a convoy of cars from the three major Israeli cities and passed through some other Golan Druze villages blowing the car horns as a sign of protest.

Our correspondent, Arye Gus, reports that other members of the committee visited the Bi'r Zayt University after its university personnel had complained that they are being harassed by military authorities. The committee members talked with lecturers and students announcing that the university's struggle symbolizes the struggle of the Palestinian's for independence and self-determination.

EGYPTIAN TOURISM DELEGATION ARRIVES 31 JAN

TA311604 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 31 Jan 82

[Text] This noon an Egyptian delegation led by the deputy tourism minister arrived in Israel to participate in the prime minister's conference on tourism affairs which opens tomorrow. At Ben-Gurion Airport the guest said tourism between Israel and Egypt had taken giant steps forward and he hopes that the talks to be held in Israel will increase it even further.

The ITIM correspondent reports that the Egyptian ambassador, Sa'd Murtada, went to wait for the delegation and entered the VIP lounge. However, when he was told that the lounge had been reserved by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and that there would be no official reception for the delegation, he departed. His staff remained to deal with the delegation from Egypt.

BRIEFS

RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS MINISTRY DIRECTOR -- The Cabinet today approved the appointment of Rabbi Moshe Salomon as director general of the Religious Affairs Ministry. He replaces Gdalyah Schraiber. [Text] [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 31 Jan 82 TA]

TRAVEL FUNDS FROZEN -- The governor of Bank Yisra'el a short while ago ordered all commercial banks to freeze all their saving programs and special projects that enable their customers to purchase tickets for flights overseas at a later date. The governor will examine details of the projects because, in his view, some of them contain benefits for airlines and travel agents. In his opinion, the banks should not involve themselves in matters that do not fall within their scope of business. Our correspondent, Beni Rom, says the Arkia Company and the Kopel travel agency announced a few minutes ago they would continue and even expand projects they had initiated because they do not involve bank savings programs. [Text] [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 31 Jan 82 TA]

ALGERIA

BEN YAHIA HOLDS TALKS WITH CHEYSSON 29 JAN

LD292338 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 29 Jan 82

[Text] Claude Cheysson, French minister of external relations, after arriving in Algeria today on a short working visit, had talks with his Algerian counterpart, Brother Mohamed Ben Yahia.

Claude Cheysson will return to Paris tomorrow morning after a second round of talks between the Algerian and French sides.

ALGERIA, FRANCE EXTEND GAS AGREEMENT DEADLINE

NC311434 Paris AFP in English 1403 GMT 31 Jan 82

[Text] Algiers, 31 Jan (AFP) -- France and Algeria appear to have extended a January 31 deadline for reaching agreement on the price of a 20-year natural gas deal between the two countries, informed Algerian sources said today.

The sources said an agreement over the prices appeared impossible before today, the official deadline. But they added that the size of the deal made it almost certain that a tacit agreement to extend the deadline had been reached.

Algerian officials in the national natural gas concern, Sonatrach, asked on Tuesday to break off the talks to consult with the Algerian Government.

On Friday, Claude Cheysson, the French foreign minister, arrived for a visit with his Algerian counterpart, Mohammed Ben Yahia. A news blackout was imposed on the results of those discussions.

France has offered to pay what sources termed a "political price" for the gas, above what it usually pays for its supplies, to aid Algerian development. But sources said the French gas concern, Gaz de France, has balked at this extra payment, and has asked the French Government to make it.

Talks over the French purchase of Algerian gas have been going on for the past 2 years. Paris officials, expressing hopes to diversify their natural gas supplies, on January 23 announced that they have agreed to buy eight thousand million cubic meters over 25 years from the Soviet Union.

FOREIGN MINISTER REVIEWS VISIT TO ITALY

LD300002 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 29 Jan 82

[Text] The Political Bureau member and foreign affairs minister, Mohamed Seddik Ben Yahia, returned to Algiers today after a 3-day official visit to Italy at the invitation of his Italian counterpart Emilio Colombo. He was welcomed at Houari Boumediene International Airport by the minister of energy and petrochemical industries, Brother Belkacem Nabi, and the Italian charge d'affaires in Algiers.

The visit resulted in a political agreement over the start of negotiations between the two countries regarding gas. At a press statement at Rome airport, the brother minister said his talks with senior Italian officials dealt with the development of bilateral relations, particularly economic relations, and an assessment of the international situation on issues causing international tensions.

Concerning bilateral relations, Brother Ben Yahia explained that these relations have made it possible to discuss issues. He said some difficulties have harmed economic relations between the two countries especially in regard to the price of gas.

After he recalled the results reached in the talks between the Algerian and Italian ministerial delegations, he said agreement had been reached to start talks between Sonatrach and ENI [the Italian gas corporation] in the coming days and to conclude these talks before 15 (February). He hoped the talks would reach agreement over this basic problem. The brother minister explained that the talks will take place at a political level if difficulties emerge between Sonatrach and ENI. In conclusion, Ben Yahia said he believes the visit made it possible to hold a dialogue between the two countries on a serious basis and that the coming visit of the Italian foreign trade minister to Algeria will provide an opportunity to continue this dialogue.

LIBYA

AL-QADHDHAFI ADVISES KING HUSAYN TO FIGHT ISRAEL

LD292242 Tripoli Voice of Arab Homeland in Arabic 2115 GMT 29 Jan 82

[Text] Brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Great September Revolution made a special statement to JANA in which he said: We thought the call for volunteers by King Husayn of Jordan today would be for the liberation of Palestine and holy Jerusalem which can be seen from the house of King Husayn and not for the purpose of fighting against Iran.

The leader went on to say: Our analysis of Arab conditions is that the United States is riding the Arab horse and it has begun to lead it in its chosen direction to serve its own and Zionist aims.

The brother leader noted in his statement that Arab countries whose existence is threatened by the Zionist entity have begun to exchange the real enemy for another enemy. They have begun to turn their backs on the real enemy of the Arab nation and they continue to publicize this serious matter which serves U.S. and Israeli aims.

The leader added: This demagogy reveals the historical farces being enacted in the lean Arab theater. The proper thing is for all Arab rifles to point at the Zionist enemy, which is threatening Arab existence, and to leave Iran alone. At the same time, we have our stand on this war between two Islamic states, Iraq and Iran.

The leader said: From the start, we were against this war and we are also against the occupation of even one foot of Iraqi territory. We are also against the enslavement of any Iraqi by Iran. Iran knows this and we do not think it is thinking about doing this. We are not with Iran in any attempt on its part to occupy even one foot of Arab territory or to enslave any number of Iraqi individuals. We also are against Iraq occupying any Iranian territory.

The leader explained that our efforts will always be directed toward ending this war and resorting to wisdom and reason. We declare our responsibility because we are ready to stop this war if the Arabs decide to fight the Israeli enemy -- the real common enemy -- to liberate their occupied territory.

COMMENTARY CRITICIZES HAIG'S MIDDLE EAST TOUR

LD300416 Tripoli Voice of Arab Homeland in Arabic 2115 GMT 29 Jan 82

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig returned to the Arab region in continuation of his previous tour. During Haig's previous visit, he toured a number of Arab states in addition to the Zionist entity where he unexpectedly cut short his visit and returned to Washington. Haig has returned to the Arab area. He began his tour with a visit to occupied Palestine where he met with leaders of the Zionist enemy including the terrorist Menahem Begin.

What attracts attention is the fact that the tours of U.S. officials have intensified since the execution of As-Sadat. It becomes clear from this tour that the U.S. administration -- which has been and still is the major side to the treasonous Camp David agreements and all the resulting liquidationist schemes such as the autonomy conspiracy -- is eager to maintain these agreements because they perpetuate the Zionist presence, liquidate the Palestinian issue in favor of the Zionist enemy and maintain U.S. interests in the Arab region.

The tours of U.S. administration officials have become so numerous because this administration insists on marching along the path of the Camp David agreements until it realizes its purpose and objective at the expense of the Arab nation and the Arab nation's legitimate rights. The new Haig tour comes at a time when there is much talk about the possibility of the Zionist enemy committing an aggression against south Lebanon, which might cover a target beyond the south, namely, the liquidation of the Palestinian revolution and the imposition of new conditions on the entire Arab region. These new conditions would fully favor the enemy especially now that his appetite has become more insatiable with the annexation of the Golan Heights which received the blessings of the U.S. administration.

The new Haig tour, observers believe, is another link in the chain of U.S.-Zionist conspiracies against the Arab nation. One can look at this tour from the U.S. angle to see that Haig is participating in the Zionist expansionist steps to annex the West Bank and the Gaza Strip under the guise of the autonomy conspiracy now that the U.S. administration has used the veto to stop penalizing it.

Haig has come to the area to encourage the Zionist enemy toward further occupation and toward making such an occupation a fait accompli. Haig also has come to give his blessing to the annexation of the Golan; this is a new attempt to establish U.S. domination over the Arab region. This domination is based on a strategic alliance with the Zionist enemy and (?blackmailing) some Arab states while intimidating others. The Zionist enemy and the U.S. administration are two sides of the same coin. If Haig's mission is to promote this coin in the Arab region, the Arabs will have to prove to the world that this currency is counterfeit and is unlawful for circulation.

The current state in which U.S. officials tours of the region have become too frequent is, in the opinion of observers, the most serious thing that the Arab nation has had to face in its contemporary history or rather the greatest thing that this nation has ever had to face in its long history. The danger arises from the Zionist enemy and his U.S. ally as well as from the plundering of Arab rights. This Zionist state is a direct daily threat and there is no one who can belittle its enormity except those who are traitors to the Arab nation. There is no one who can deny that Haig's tour, which ended today with talks in Cairo, is playing the role other U.S. officials have played, namely, defining the tasks assigned to the Zionist state in addition to what is happening as a result of separating the Arab East from the Arab West, standing in the way of achieving the fateful Arab unity, working with other hostile imperialist and colonialist forces to destroy the Arab entity and preventing the Arab nation's liberation and progressive advance.

CEAUSESCU ENVOY ARRIVES IN TRIPOLI 30 JAN

LD302150 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1820 GMT 30 Jan 82

[Text] Vasile Pungan, personal envoy of the president of Romania, arrived in Tripoli this evening.

Meets With Al-'Ubaydi

LD311546 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 31 Jan 82

[Text] The secretary for foreign liaison, 'Abd al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi met this morning with the Romanian president's personal envoy, Vasile Pungan. Means of consolidating existing cooperation and implementing bilateral agreements were discussed during the meeting.

MUBARAK CAUTIONS NUMAYRI ON RELATIONS WITH U.S.

LD311908 Tripoli JANA in English 1800 GMT 31 Jan 82

[Text] Beirut, 31 Jan (JANA) -- The Lebanese newspaper AN-NAHRI said today that the Egyptian President Husni Mubarak has advised the Sudanese ruler Ja'far Numayri to exercise caution in his dealings with the United States in view of the current situation through which the Sudan is passing. Mubarak is believed to have told Numayri to exercise caution especially in providing unlimited military facilities to the U.S.

The Lebanese paper said the Egyptian president promised Numayri that he will bring up the subject of aid for the Sudan in talks with Western European leaders. The paper said Mubarak apparently told Numayri during their meeting in Aswan that Egypt will send oil supplies to Sudan to cover the serious shortfall in the country's fuel supplies.

JANA REPORTS VIOLENT CLASHES IN SOUTHERN SUDAN

LD011004 Tripoli JANA in English 0957 GMT 1 Feb 82

[Text] Beirut, 1 Feb (JAN) -- Violent and bloody clashes are taking place in the southern Sudanese province of Malakal, between the locals and the regime's repressive forces. Two transport aircraft arrived in Khartoum carrying large numbers of casualties from that province.

CORRESPONDENT SAYS CHAD FORCES FOIL REBEL ATTACK

LD311516 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1400 GMT 31 Jan 82

[Text] Ndjamena, 31 Jan (JANA) -- Chad Government forces have checked the Northern Forces and foiled an attempt they made to occupy Fada. A JANA correspondent reported that the government forces succeeded in checking the Northern Forces following a grinding battle and fierce fighting. The Chad forces have been able to recapture the Mangalme area from the Northern Forces who had occupied the area last week.

MAURITANIA

COOPERATION TALKS WITH IRAQ BEGIN 29 JAN

AB291720 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1430 GMT 29 Jan 82

[Excerpt] The Mauritanian-Iraqi joint cooperation commission opened its session today. The meeting was presided over on the Mauritanian side by Mahjoub Ould Boye, minister of water supply and housing, and on the Iraqi side by Muhammad Fadil, Iraqi minister of housing and town planning. The opening ceremony was marked by the exchange of speeches in which the two ministers reaffirmed the solid cooperation existing between the two countries.

At the end of the opening ceremony, the two ministers inspected projects undertaken with Iraqi financial aid in Nouakchott before leaving for Nema to inspect the Nouakchott-Nema road under construction. Projects visited include the health center of the 5th district of Nouakchott, which cost 19 million ouguiya; a national central hospital in Chaab, which is estimated to cost 86 million ouguiya; and a workers' educational center, a donation from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to the workers of Mauritania.

BRIEFS

SAUDI ARABIA AID -- A loan agreement was signed this morning between our country and the Saudi Development Fund at the Ministry of Equipment, Transport and Telecommunications. The agreement was signed for the Mauritanian side by Dieng Boubou Farba, minister of economy and finance, and on the Saudi side by (Mohamed el-Touray), vice president and director general of the fund. Under this agreement, the fund offers Mauritania 83.750 million Saudi riyals (about 2 billion ouguiya) for the financing of the Kiffa-Nema road. [Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1430 GMT 27 Jan 82 AB]

SUDAN

NUMAYRI ATTACKS AL-QADHDHAFI, IRAQI BA'TH PARTY

JN301802 Khartoum SUNA in English 1730 GMT 30 Jan 82

[Text] Khartoum, 30 Jan (SUNA) -- President Numayri has reiterated that the experiment of the sole political organization was and would remain the ideal formula that suits the Sudan and its various conditions.

"The Sudanese Socialist organization "SSU" is not imposed on the people by pressure and its doors are opened before every one," he said.

Addressing the popular committee for developing "SSU" work, he pointed out that the "SSU" was the sole political organization in the world that faced criticism from its leadership. "Its activities are open under the umbrella of May revolution and it would not be similar to the irony organization confined for elites in some states," he said. [sentence as heard]

He said the Sudanese sole political organization is not a sectoral party or a regional organization. The SSU can not be like the Syrian or Iraqi Ba'th Party confined for privileged who believe in domination of one ethnic group and one culture and it can not be similar to communist parties which group elites, staunch for a sector and try to realize domination by pressure and terrorism. [sentence as received]

President Numayri mentioned that Sudan was facing a threat against its national unity and severely attacked Libyan Colonel al-Qadhdhafi and Iraqi Ba'th Party for their attempts to undermine Sudan's unity. "Al-Qadhdhafi is seeking to realize his declared target, the merger, and he wants a part of Sudan at the expense of its unity," Numayri said.

President Numayri laid a number of questions before the popular committee as hints that could help the committee actualize aims of developing work in Sudan Socialist Union SSU. Among these guiding points is the discussion of the possibility of making the SSU Central Committee the supreme leadership of the SSU which could practise its role, shoulder its responsibility and reconsider the number and process of election of the SSU Central Committee members.

President Numayri called on the members of the popular committee to put into consideration the time which Sudan passes through and the strategies which aim at exploiting the location of Sudan. He also refered to the plans of Al-Qadhdhafi which aim at building an all allegedly Islamic empire which includes Sudan, Chad, Niger and Egypt.

The stage which Sudan passes through is the stage of ideological bargain waged by the Iraqi Ba'th party which while failing to personify its politicals ideology in Syria tries to impose it on Sudan, he said. He asked whether the Iraqi Ba'th wanted Sudan to live as Iraq in wars with Kurds in the north and Iranians in the northwest.

President Numayri said that he left the door open before the anti-revolutionists. They attacked Sudan Socialist Union SSU, exaggerate in correcting mistakes and even demanded its abolition. He said revolution enemies are speaking openly about their enmity to U.S. while at the same time weeping loss of freedom and prevalance of oppression "but we know that they are hired agents of Al-Qadhdhafi," he said.

Warns Against Factions

EA302012 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 30 Jan 82

[Text] The leader president Ja'far Muhammad Numayri, president of the Sudanese Socialist Union [SSU], has stressed that there will be no withdrawal of support for the single organization [the SSU] nor talk about a multiplicity of platforms and banners.

At the first meeting of the popular committee to develop the work of the SSU, which was held this morning, he said that the SSU is the single organization of Sudan and the unified Sudanese nation and that dialogue within it is required and disagreement legitimate. However, gathering in a bloc under any banner, either inside or outside, is an unforgiveable crime for it means the seeds of division for the nation. Indeed, it would mean supporting conspiracies directed at the unity of the Sudanese nation.

His excellency stressed there can be no departure from the formula of the alliance of the forces of the working people, which are the forces of work, production and construction. The president added that any effort that does not accept the concept of a single organization and the formula of the alliance is legitimate, acceptable and required.

He said this criticism of the SSU is solely constructive criticixm meant to encourage and urge more activity and action because man's potential is unlimited. The leader president expressed his regret at those who take this criticism as a basis for demolishing the SSU. He also expressed his regret at members who repeat slogans without knowing their purpose, thereby thinking that they are endeavoring to improve and redirect our political organization when in reality they are being led onto the path of demagogues, denominations, factions and schisms.

The leader president stressed that the SSU did not impose its existence on the people by force nor did it close its doors to the people as an organization of the elite, rather, its doors are always open to everyone interested and capable and even to every malicious person as well. The political organization does not exercise its political power in political isolation, except within the narrowest limits. The vast Sudan of diverse cultures and races is united only under it [the SSU] and the multiplicity of loyalty and affiliation only vanished under its banner.

OPPOSITION LEADER VIEWS POLITICAL PROBLEMS

PM291649 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 28 Jan 82 p 1, 2

[As-Sirr Sayyid Ahmad report on an "exclusive interview" with former prime minister and opposition leader As-Sad'q al-Mahdi -- date and place not given]

[Text] London -- Sudanese leader As-Sadiq al-Mahdi says the situation in Sudan has reached the point of collapse and the crisis necessitates the participation of all groups and popular and military forces in the search for a peaceful solution to Sudan's problem.

He also revealed that the reconciliation process between him and President Ja'far Numayri is deadlocked and that, despite this, he still adheres to the principle that political work should be done inside the country. He said he soon will return to Sudan and the regime will have to either allow him to be active there or arrest him and thus virtually end the reconciliation process.

In an exclusive interview with ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, the former Sudanese prime minister said the economic austerity program announced by President Numayri last November was "economically wrong and socially destructive." He added the government should have cut back political, security, administrative and information expenses before putting pressure on the people's individual income and standard of living. However, such a step requires structural changes which the present regime cannot introduce because it needs to maintain the present structure. He added: "Therefore, economic issues provoke political issues."

As-Sadiq al-Mahdi said the reconciliation is a peaceful way of solving Sudan's political problems but it encountered numerous difficulties which led to his resignation from the Political Bureau of the Sudanese Socialist Union [SSU]. He added: The resignation protested the Political Bureau not consulting when Sudan's position on the Camp David agreements was decided. It became clear later that it is useless to be part of a regime where the forces of reconciliation are unable to achieve reconciliation within the regime.

As-Sadiq al-Mahdi said that in 1980 they [as published] decided to withdraw their representatives in the official institutions such as the SSU and the People's Assembly and that whoever chose to remain did so on a personal basis "such as Dr 'Abd al-Hamid Salih, former People's Assembly official and member of the Popular Committee recently formed by Numayri to review the SSU's work." They also, on the same basis, boycotted the People's Assembly elections held late last year.

After the withdrawal decision in March 1980, it was agreed with President Numayri that a committee should be formed to make studies and sumbit specific recommendations. A committee was formed for this purpose and in addition to him, the committee included former First Vice President 'Abd al-Majid Hamid Khalil, Chief of State Security 'Umar Muhammad at-Tayyib, Dr 'Umar Nur ad-Da'im (an aide of Al-Mahdi) and the present minister of energy and mining, Dr Sharif at-Tuhami. The committee did, in fact, make a number of recommendations. In August 1980, it recommended that the SSU be dissolved and rebuilt on a democratic basis. It also called for an extraordinary conference to discuss proposed reforms. These recommendations, however, were stillborn. In November of the same year, this committee submitted other recommendations. It maintained that the situation in the country had deteriorated so much that radical reforms were necessary in the institutions and in the performance. The committee left it to the president to determine how such reforms should be carried out, but nothing happened and so the process of reconciliation become deadlocked.

Asked why the issue of reconciliation was not made public, why it was confined to a secret meeting between him and President Numayri with nobody else attending and why no announcement was made in this connection, As-Sadiq al-Mahdi said he did not view the reconciliation from a traditional angle. He added that he and his group already had their own views on the various issues and that all that the reconciliation did was open the door for dialogue. He maintained that there will either be change by peaceful means or a popular mobilization for change. He added that "as long as there is work and activity, there will be no loss but if the regime resorts to violence then we will have the right to contemplate other means." He pointed out that "those who do not return [to Sudan] actually isolate themselves from the developments and the new reality that is beginning to emerge in Sudan."

Al-Mahdi also said: The situation has reached the point where the regime itself is convinced that all its institutions have failed, so the executive branch was dissolved a while ago and the political body has now been disbanded and there now is a confrontation between the regime and the armed forces. The options now are for Numayri to either accept our call for an open dialogue among all groups or reject this call and thus open the way for a military adventure or for a further intensification of the crisis and subsequently a general strike and civil mutiny.

As-Sadiq al-Mawdi pointed out that he has established contact with all the effective political forces in Sudan through the various organizations and unions but he does not want to operate from abroad. He said he has no contacts with the supporters of Ash-Sharif al-Hindi at present.

As-Sadiq al-Mahdi described the dismissal of Gen 'Abd al-Majid Hamid Khalil from all his political and military posts as a setback for reconciliation and military discipline as well as for the preparation of a successor to President Numayri. He added: 'Abd al-Majid is an efficient and able officer who has given the armed forces the discipline they long lacked. He was also more sincere than any previous vice president. A man like him was bound to clash with Numayri over how to deal with disturbances and to introduce the desired reforms. The army's problem with the regime is that the army does not know whether it is a political army or a disciplined army that has nothing to do with politics.

On Sudan's relations with Egypt under President Husni Mubarak, Al-Mahdi said whereas As-Sadat saw himself as policeman of the region and viewed Sudan from the angle of strategic security and subservience to his own policies, President Mubarak appears to be reviewing the policies and mistakes of his predecessor. He added: We hope that he will not look at Egyptian-Sudanese relations as relations of one regime protecting another but as relations based on the true interests of the people of the two countries.

Al-Mahdi denied any Arab mediation between him and the regime and that Arab aid to Sudan is inadequate. He said: Sudan has received much money from the Arabs but mismanagement of these funds and bad planning made the Arab organizations pause to think and ask: Where have these funds gone? It isn't a question of just giving grants but of giving economic aid based on sound economic foundations. The grants approach did in fact contribute to the present crisis. In 1977, the then Sudanese Finance Minister Ash-Sharif al-Khatim declared that the country was on the verge of economic collapse and called for radical solutions. He was dismissed from his post and urgent aid was obtained from the fraternal states. This aid contributed to the exclusion of radical solutions. This shows that the present regime always resorts to old solutions which cannot lead to reform.

On Sudan's relations with the United States, Al-Mahdi said the United States always looks at Sudan as a strategic support for Egypt without any regard whatsoever for what is actually happening in Sudan. The strange thing is that, despite this, the United States does not use its influence to persuade the IMF to give loans to Sudan on easy terms.

As-Sadiq al-Mahdi has been outside Sudan for about 15 months during which he visited the United States, Saudi Arabia, Ethiopia and Libya. He met with senior officials in these countries. He has supporters in the last two but he denied that he intends to use them for any military moves from abroad against the regime as in 1976.

ETHIOPIA

CUBAN DELEGATION ARRIVES IN ADDIS ABABA 28 JAN

EA282028 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 0900 GMT 28 Jan 82

[Text] Comrade Jorge Risquet Valdes, member of the Cuban Communist Party Politburo, arrived in Addis Ababa this morning on a working visit to socialist Ethiopia.

On arrival in Addis Ababa, Comrade Jorge Risquet Valdes was met at Bole International Airport by Comrades Berhanu Baye, Provisional Military Administrative Council [PMAC] Standing Committee and Commission for Organizing the Party of the Workers of Ethiopia [COPWE] Executive Committee member; Teka Tulu, PMAC Standing Committee and COPWE Central Committee member; Girma Yilma, information and national guidance minister and COPWE Central Committee member; Goshu Wolde, education minister and COPWE Central Committee member; senior government officials; and Comrade Buenaventura Reyes Costa, Cuban ambassador to socialist Ethipia.

The high-ranking revolutionary Cuban delegates accompanying Comrade Jorge Risquet Valdes include Comrades Abelardo Colome Ibarra, alternate member of the Cuban CP Politburo, Carlos Aldana, member of the Cuban Communist Party Central Committee and Oscar Oramas, deputy foreign minister.

Mengistu Reception

EA282040 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 28 Jan 82

[Text] Comrade Chairman Mengistu Haile Mariam, chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council [PMAC] and of the Commission for Organizing the Party of the Workers of Ethiopia [COPWE], and commander in chief of the revolutionary army, received and held talks with Comrade Jorge Risquet Valdes, member of the Cuban Communist Party Politburo at Asmara Palace this afternoon. Comrade Chairman Mengistu Haile Mariam and Comrade Jorge Risquet Valdes discussed the existing friendly relations between the Republic of Cuba and socialist Ethiopia and topical international issues.

Comrade Jorge Risquet Valdes also delivered a message to our revolutionary leader from Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz, secretary general of the Cuban Communist Party Central Committee, chairman of the country's Council of Ministers and commander in chief of the Cuban Armed Forces.

Present on the occasion were Comrade Hadis Tedla, member of the PMAC Standing Committee, deputy chairman of the National Revolutionary Economic Development Campaign and the Central Planning Supreme Council and COPWE Executive Committee member; Comrade Legese Asfaw, member of the MPAC Standing Committee and COPWE Executive Committee; and Comrade Dr Feleke Gedle-Giorgis, foreign minister and COPWE Central Committee member.

Also present were the delegates accompanying Comrade Jorge Risquet Valdes, namely, Comrade Abelardo Colome Ibarra, alternate member of the Cuban CP Politburo and first deputy foreign minister, Carlos Aldana, (Cerbela Mores) and General (Flectas), all members of the Cuban CP Central Committee; Comrade Oscar Oramas, deputy minister in the Cuban Foreign Ministry; and Comrade Buenaventura Reyes Costa, Cuban ambassador to socialist Ethiopia.

Comrade Jorge Risquet Valdes arrived in Addis Ababa this morning on a working visit to socialist Ethiopia.

30 Jan Talks

EA301954 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 30 Jan 82

[Excerpt] Comrade Berhanu Baye and Comrade Jorge Risquet held talks today on ways of further strengthening relations between the Cuban Communist Party and the Commission for Organizing the Party of the Workers of Ethiopia [COPWE] and on topical international issues. Comrade Berhanu Baye, member of the Provisional Military Administrative Council [PMAC] Standing Committee and of the COPWE Executive, briefed Comrade Jorge Risquet, member of the Cuban Communist Party Politburo, and his delegation on the historical causes of the Ethiopian revolution, the hardships to which the Ethiopian broad masses were subjected before the revolution and on the achievements of the revolution. Comrade Berhanu also explained to the Cuban delegation COPWE's efforts to organize the Ethiopian workers party and the dissemination of Marxist-Leninist ideology as well as the efforts being made to build a socialist economy and to strengthen Ethiopia's defense forces. Comrade Berhanu Baye also briefed the Cuban delegation on the situation in the Horn of Africa, particularly U.S. imperialism's destructive activities aimed at stifling revolutions in the region.

Comrade Jorge Risquet for his part briefed Comrade Berhanu Baye on the organization activities of the Cuban Communist Party and the efforts being made by the Cuban people in the task of building a socialist economy as well as close relations between the Cuban Communist Party and revolutionary Ethiopia.

Cooperation Accord Signed

EA311510 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1000 GMT 31 Jan 82

[Excerpt] An agreement providing for the strengthening of relations and cooperation between the Commission for Organizing the Party of the Workers of Ethiopia [COPWE] and the Cuban Communist Party [PCC] was signed this morning.

At the ceremony at the COPWE Central Committee headquarters, Comrade Berhanu Baye, Provisional Military Administrative Council (PMAC) Standing Committee and COPWE Executive Committee member, signed the agreement for COPWE, while Comrade Jorge Risquet, member of the PCC Political Bureau, signed on behalf of the PCC.

The signing ceremony also was attended by Comrades (Shewa-Ndagn Belete), COPWE Central Committee member and second deputy chief of COPWE's Organizational Department; Girma (Neway), COPWE Central Committee member and chief of the Agitprops section of COPWE's Ideological Department, (Tesfaye Tadesse), COPWE Central Committee member and assistant editor of SERTO ADER, members of the Cuban delegation and Bueneventura Reyes Acosta, Cuban Ambassador to socialist Ethiopia.

The PCC delegation left for home this morning at the end of its working visit to socialist Ethiopia.

CAMEROON

CONGO'S SASSOU-NGUESSO ENDS VISIT 31 JAN

AB010800 Yaounde Domestic Service in French 0600 GMT 1 Feb 82

[Text] Events in our country at the beginning of this week are still dominated by the 5-day visit paid to our country by the Congolese head of state, Col Denis Sassou-Nguesso. The visit ended yesterday in Maroua at the general satisfaction of both Cameroon and Congo.

Our two countries have decided to develop their cooperation in various fields, including agriculture, forestry, stockbreeding, transportation, post and telecommunications, mines and energy. Our numerous development potentials are to be pooled within the framework of the complementarity of experiences and means and in the awareness of the fact that development depends on solidarity between states -- as the bilateral solidarity between Cameroon and Congo as well as mulitlateral solidarity in our central African subregion with the Central African Customs and Economic Union. This solidarity will be developed in accordance with the recommendations of the 1980 Lagos plan of action which calls for the creation of large entities that may eventually lead to the creation of an African common market.

The great Cameroon-Congo joint commission will meet in Yaounde within the next few days to study in detail the ways and means of ensuring increased cooperation between Congo and Cameroon.

AFP Cites Communique

AB210607 Paris AFP in English 1420 GMT 31 Jan 82

[Text] Yaounde, 31 Jan (AFP) -- The Cameroon and Congo today accused South Africa of dragging its heels on the issue of independence for Namibia and reiterated their support for liberation movements in southern Africa.

In a joint communique issued in Cameroon at the end of a five-day official visit by Congolese head of state Colonel Denis Sassou-Nguesso, the two countries also condemned states and interest groups supporting South Africa, and called on the United Nations to speed up the process for eliminating the odious policy of apartheid practised by the racist leaders of Pretoria.

The two countries also expressed their serious concern about foreign interference and interventions in the internal affairs by (African) countries. This was creating insecurity and instability on the continent, said the communique, also signed by Cameroonian leader Ahmadou Ahidjo.

The two countries, welcoming their relations of friendship, good neighbourliness and solidarity, said they would step up cooperation concerning agriculture, energy and transportation.

Mr Ahidjo accepted an invitation to visit the Congo at a date which has not yet been set.

CHAD

OAU COMMANDER DENIES AMERICANS IN FORCE

AB010615 Paris AFP in English 1411 GMT 31 Jan 82

[Excerpt] Ndjamena, 31 Jan (AFP) -- The commander-in-chief of the Organisation of African Unity peace-keeping force in Chad, General Geoffrey Ejiga, has denied Libyan reports that Americans were involved in the OAU force, it was reported here today. In a press communique, Gen, Ejiga said that these reports amounted to an attack against the honour of Africa through the OAU.

The communique also announced that other contingents of the force would soon arrive in Chad, but did not say where they would be deployed. OAU troops were based in Salamat in the southeast and Kanem in the west, but the commander-in-chief said recently that moves by the rebel armed forces of the north in the Kanem district had forced the redeployment of the peace-keeping troops in that region.

ZAIRE

KINSHASA UNIVERSITY, TEACHERS INSTITUTE CLOSED

AB011001 Kinshasa Domestic Service in French 0600 GMT 1 Feb 82

[Text] The Executive Council just decided on the closure of the University of Kinshasa and of the National Teachers Training Institute until further notice with the exception of the medicine and pharmacy faculty which will continue to deliver lectures to future doctors. These major decisions were adopted during last Friday's [29 January] meeting and announced yesterday evening by the Executive Council's spokesman and state commissioner for information, Citizen Kande Dzambulate, who this morning again reported on this meeting:

[Begin recording] Here is the much expected, but somewhat delayed report on the Executive Council's meeting, but which is still timely as you will see. This delay is due to the fact that in view of the gravity of the decision, the Executive Council was anxious to first inform the founding chairman who was then taking part in a meeting of the Economic Community of the Countries of the Great Lakes at Gisenyi. In view of the precarious means of communications between Gisenyi and Kinshasa, the first state commissioner on Sunday morning dispatched to the head of state a delegation which I led personally. The founding chairman completely approved the Executive Council's decisions, particularly those relating to the University of Kinshasa and the National Teachers Training Institute.

In fact, during its meeting last Friday afternoon in its office under the chairmanship of the first state commissioner, the Executive Council listened to a long report by the state commissioner for higher education on the situation on the campus of the University of Kinshasa and at the National Teachers Training Institute where -- with the complicity of the members of the students branch of the MPR Youth Union and the instigation of lazy elements who are afraid of the approach of the preliminary examinations -- the students launched an illegal strike in support of whimsical and unrealistic demands which are clearly only a pretext to avoid the examinations or at least to disturb them.

It must be noted, however, that it was not only a question of a strike organized by lazy students who chose this dishonorable and cunning solution because of their unpreparedness. In fact, the demands are such that they are impossible to satisfy. They include the award of a bursary of 1,000 Zaires, whereas the salary of the most senior official of the public administration is less then that. (?The strikers) seized the primary and secondary school teachers who refused to join the strike action, descended into the streets and harassed the public, for example, truck drivers were stopped and their vehicles or goods were confiscated. They made disrespectful and even insulting drawings of higher authorities, seized the sick and threatened to release prisoners. Even if one demonstrates a lot of humor and good will, one will agree that all these are far from constituting what is commonly known as a students strike.

In view of the obviously subversive character of the movement and the need to maintain order and discipline within the ranks of those who are destined or who intend to become cadres of the MPR, the Executive Council adopted two serious decisions: 1 -- The immediate closure of the University of Kinshasa and of the National Teachers Training Institute until further notice; 2 -- The faculty of medicine is not included in this measure and will therefore continue to deliver lectures to the future doctors. Various measures relating to the application of these decisions will be published in due course. [end recording]

GHANA

HEAVY SHOOTING HEARD INSIDE BURMA CAMP 28 JAN

PA292046 Paris AFP in English 1900 GMT 29 Jan 82

[Text] Lome, 29 Jan (AFP) -- Heavy firing was heard for an hour yesterday inside Burma Camp, the military barracks in Accra which are the headquarters of Ghana's ruling Provisional National Defence Council (PNDC), a firsthand source said here today.

The shooting lasted from 5:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m., and the camp schools were later closed for the whole day, the source said. It was not known if there had been an attempt to unseat PNDC Chairman Jerry Rawlings, who took power on New Year's Eve.

Five hours later more shots were fired at (?Accra airport) after a Ghanian aircraft which had landed was alleged to contain Nigerians, who press reports said had plotted with Britain, Cameroon, France, Togo and the United States to overthrow the Rawlings regime.

The governments named denied the accusations, but yesterday a crowd demonstrated outside the respective embassies in Accra. An American flag was burned outside the U.S. mission.

The Togolese Government's official denial, which was delivered to the Ghanian Embassy here today, voiced strong protest and said that Lome had never interfered in the affairs of other nations.

The statement accused Accra of "defamation" and demanded proof of Togo's participation in any attempt to destabilise Ghana.

RAWLINGS URGES STUDENTS TO ENLIGHTEN MASSES

AB310817 Accra Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 31 Jan 82

[Excerpt] The chairman of the Provisional National Defense Council [PNDC], Flight Lieutenant Rawlings, has noted that the most deadly weapon used by previous governments to exploit the common man was by keeping him ignorant so that he would not question the efficacy of the corrupt system that prevailed. It is therefore of prime importance that the masses should be awakened from their slumber of ignorance so as to be able to take part in the decisionmaking process in the country. And this is primarily the (?mandate) that the students must take in the revolution.

Flight Lieutenant Rawlings was speaking at a rally organized by the students task force at the Independence Square in Accra. He said this vicious tool of ignorance was used to make enemies of the people one against the other so that the soldier wants to kill without question. The policemen would brutalize without reason and the worker sweat to feed the selfish people of the top without asking for his due reward.

The PNDC chairman said when people are not educated, they end up in supplying this education in the service of both the internal and extermal enemies. And in a country where people are bogged down with the burden of working for sheer survival, they hardly have time to think about their role in society. Flight Lieutenant Rawlings said this same tool of ignorance was used by those in authority to prevent the masses from knowing the kind of agreements they signed with foreign governments and companies.

Referring to Valco [Volta Aluminium Company], for instance, he said if the company truly cared for the plight of black men, why up till now, having used the country's electricity all the years, it has not started mining the country's bauxite deposits. This is because if they do, Ghanians will be able to produce their own aluminium products for export and make money for Ghana.

In the light of all these and other problems, the chairman urged every Ghanaian to take the people's defense committees seriously so that they can expose those notorious activities wherever they may be. And to articulate the aims of the revolution to the grassroot level, those who have benefitted from the taxpaper to get educated should now help and enlighten the people about their rights.

DAMUAH SAYS 'HOLY WAR' ACCORDS WITH CHRISTIANITY

AB301348 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 30 Jan 82

[Text] The role of the church has been severely criticized at a symposium in Accra. Speaking on the topic whether Christians should get themselves involved in politics, a member of the Provisional National Defense Council, Rev Dr Kwabena Damuah, said one of the greatest sins of the church is its failure to be actively involved in the fight against oppression. He said the holy war began on 31 December last year is in line with the Christian doctrine of seeking the welfare of the oppressed as was demonstrated by Christ and his apostles. Reverend Dr Damuah said Christians in this country uphold to do the right thing which they know [words indistinct] on the original concept of Christianity. The corruption in the country is practiced by people who claim to be Christians. The Reverend Dr Damuah said the mere provision of big church buildings and vain assurances of a better life in heaven will not be enough if Christians fail to provide the basic needs of their fellow men. He therefore called on all Christians to be up and doing to help the present revolution succeed.

PNDC APPOINTS THREE MORE REGIONAL SECRETARIES

AB010732 Accra Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 1 Feb 82

[Text] Three more secretaries have been appointed for the regions. They are Kwame Kessie for Ashanti Region; Dr Yaw Fiagbe, Volta Region; and Dr Awudu Tinoga, Upper Region. Their appointment takes immediate effect. According to a statement issued by the Provisional National Defense Council, secretaries for the remaining regions will be announced soon. Secretaries for Greater Accra and Brong Ahafo have already been appointed.

NIGERIA

AFP CITES PURCHASE OF LOW-ALTITUDE MISSILE SYSTEM

AB291714 Paris AFP in French 1536 GMT 29 Jan 82

[Text] Paris, 29 Jan (AFP) -- The Euromissile Company and Nigeria signed a contract in mid-January for supply of a Roland low-altitude ground-to-air missile system, it was learned from a source close to the manufacturer.

The contract reportedly is for between 800 million to 1 billion francs, but the spokesmen for the general department for arms supply in the Defense Ministry and those of the French-German company, Euromissile, refused to confirm this figure or to give the number of launchers and missiles to be sold to this African country.

The Roland arms system is built cooperatively by France and the FRG and by Euromissile which manufactures 300 to 350 units per month. It already supplies the French Armed Forces and those of the FRG, Brazil and Argentina. Following the reduction in its defense budget, the United States, which was supposed to purchase 200 units, cut its order down to 28 launchers and about 600 missiles.

ANGOLA

ANGOLA REJECTS ELECTORAL SYSTEM FOR NAMIBIA

AB301231 Paris AFP in French 0739 GMT 30 Jan 82

[Text] London, 30 Jan (AFP) -- Angola rejects the electoral system contained in the Western plan for the independence of Namibia but it is ready to support the other aspects of this plan. This was stated in London on Friday by the Angolan ambassador in Paris, Luis de Almeida.

These electoral rules which have already been rejected by SWAPO are too complicated, the Angolan ambassador pointed out. He called for the one-man-one-vote system or the system adopted in Zimbabwe. This is a fundamental issue because it is the basis for democracy, Luis de Almeida stressed.

The Angolan ambassador in Paris pointed out that he came to London to deliver a message to the British Government but he did not disclose its contents. In the morning, he held talks -- which he described as very fruitful -- with Richard Luce, deputy minister at the Foreign Office. Great Britain is -- with the United States, the FRG, France and Canada -- a member of the Western contact group which met early this week in Bonn to discuss the views of African countries and SWAPO on the plan they propose to ensure the Namibian independence.

The Angolan ambassador also denied categorically recent press reports on eventual negotiations between Luanda and UNITA, an Angolan opposition movement led by Jonas Savimbi, adding that the reports were part of an intoxication campaign.

Finally, De Almeida stated that thousands of South African soldiers are still occupying part of Cunene Province (in southern Angola).

AGREEMENTS WITH GDR SIGNED 28 JAN IN LUANDA

AB291248 Luanda ANGOP in Portuguese 1030 GMT 29 Jan 82

[Text] Luanda, 29 Jan (ANGOP) -- A protocol of the third subcommittee on external trade and the sending of experts and funds and two accords on trade and the training of the staff of external trade for 1982 were signed in Luanda on Thursday between the People's Republic of Angola and the GDR, within the framework of the joint governmental commission of the two countries.

The agreements, signed by Paulino Pinto, secretary of state for cooperation, and Didier Albrecht, vice chairman of the GDR State Committee for Planning, are the result of the preparatory meeting of the subcommittee on external trade and the sending of experts and funds of the Angola-GDR joint commission which was held in Luanda from 20 to 22 January.

On the occasion, Paulino Pinto said the signing of the documents constitutes a very important step in the development of the economic cooperation between our countries. These agreements, he added, will contribute positively to the achievement of the objectives of the two countries.

Didier Albrecht, who has been in Luanda since Wednesday, replied that the signing of these documents is vivid proof of the great stability the cooperation between the two countries has achieved.

HEALTH MINISTER MEETS GUINEA-BISSEAU COUNTERPART

AB291444 Luande ANGOP in Portuguese 1330 GMT 29 Jan 82

[Excerpts] Luanda, 29 Jan (ANGOP) -- Carmen Pereira, minister of health and social affairs of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau and member of the PAIGC [African Party for Independence of Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde] Political Bureau, arrived today (Thursday) in Luanda for a visit of a few days to the People's Republic of Angola at the invitation of Angolan Health Minister Mendes de Carvalho.

During her stay in Angola, the health and social affairs minister of Guinea-Bissau will attend, together with other delegations from the Ministries of Health of Mozambique, Cape Verde, Sao Tome and Principe and Angola, the inauguration of the advanced nursing institute in Luanda.

It should be pointed out that the Mozambican delegation to the inauguration of the institute has been in Luanda since yesterday and is headed by Inusse Normohamed, national director for training in the Health Ministry. The Sao Tome and Principe delegation is expected tomorrow.

The minister of health and social affairs of Guinea-Bissau, Carmen Pereira, was met at the 4 February International Airport in Luanda by her Angolan counterpart, Mendes de Carvalho. The national directors of training and public health of the Angolan Health Ministry, Luis Sambo and Raul Lopes Feio, respectively, also were present.

Paper Says Minister Arrested

AB291309 Paris AFP in English 1233 GMT 29 Jan 82

[Text] Lisbon, 29 Jan (AFP) -- Angolan Health Minister Mendes de Carvelho and a second high official have been placed under house arrest after coming under suspicion of plotting a coup, the right-wing Portuguese daily O DIA reported today.

The newspaper cited this unconfirmed report from Luanda as proof of major disagreements within the ruling Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola.

The internal troubles hinged on discussions as to whether the MPLA should seek a reconciliation with the UNITA opposition movement, which went underground in 1976 after losing a civil war at the outset of independence from Portugal.

LARA, DELEGATION PAY TRIBUTE TO MIKHAIL SUSLOV

AB291450 Luanda ANGOP in Portuguese 1320 GMT 29 Jan 82

[Text] Luanda, 29 Jan (ANGOP) -- An Angolan party delegation headed by Lucio Lara, secretary of the Central Committee of the MPLA-Labor Party for organization, paid tribute in Luanda on Thursday to the prominent Soviet leader, Mikhail Suslov who died on Monday in Moscow.

Signing the book of condolences at the residence of the Soviet ambassador to Angola, Lucio Lara expressed, on behalf of the MPLA-Labor Party Central Committee, heartfelt condolences to the Soviet people and to the CPSU on the death of Mikhail Suslov, prominent leader of the CPSU.

Mikhail Suslov was a member of the CPSU since 1921 and held various responsible posts, such as chairman of the bureau of the Central Committee for questions relating to the Socialist Republic of Lithuania (1944-1946). He was a member of the CPSU Central Committee (since 1946), the Presidium (1952-1953) and the Politburo.

Lucio Lara was accompanied by the secretary of the MPLA-Labor Party Central Committee for foreign relations, Afonso van Dunem (Mbinda).

MAURITIUS

GOVERNMENT RESTRICTS LIBYAN ACTIVITIES

LD311034 Johannesburg International Service in English 0400 GMT 31 Jan 82

[Text] The Government of Mauritius has introduced several measures aimed at restricting the activities of Libyan Government representatives in the country.

The prime minister of Mauritius, Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, says in a statement that he has requested the Libyan Government to abstain in the future from financially aiding private organizations or individuals in Mauritius and from making any offers of assistance or donations. The Mauritian Government is also to prohibit Libyan organizations from granting financial aid or assistance to political parties in Mauritius.

MOZAMBIQUE

JOINT COMMUNIQUE ON CUBAN DELEGATIONS' VISIT

EA291338 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0430 GMT 29 Jan 82

[Report on joint communique issued in Maputo 28 January following the talks held 23-26 January between Frelimo and the Cuban Communist Party]

[Text] The Cuban delegation to the talks was led by Jorge Risquet, member of the Politburo and the Secretariat of the Cuban Communist Party Central Committee, and the Mozambique delegation was led by Alberto Joaquim Chipande, member of the Permanent Political Committee of Frelimo and defense minister of the People's Republic of Mozambique.

The two sides reaffirmed that the true settlement of the Namibian problem should be based on the full implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 435.

The Cuban delegation hailed the frontline countries for their important contribution to and decisive support for the liberation movements and the peoples of southern Africa.

The Mozambique and Cuban delegations reaffirmed their support for the Polisario Front and the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic Government in their just struggle to exercise their right to self-determination and independence.

According to the joint communique, the two sides accordingly reiterated their unconditional support for the struggle of East Timor to exercise their right to self-determination and independence.

They expressed their concern over the continuation of the conflict between Iran and Iraq, both of which are members of the Nonaligned Movement. They called for the immediate cessation of the hostilities. They appealed to the two countries to find a settlement based on the decisions of the conference of foreign ministers held in New Delhi last year.

Cuba and Mozambique denounced the brazen interference by imperialism in Poland's internal affairs and expressed their confidence that the Polish people will be able to solve their problems.

Finally, the two sides expressed their satisfaction with the results of the visit made 23-26 January by the delegation of the Cuban Communist Party to our country.

NAMIBIA

SWAPO PROGRAM VIEWS WAR SITUATION IN NAMIBIA

EA291340 Addis Ababa Voice of Namibia in English 1900 GMT 28 Jan 82

[SWAPO program]

[Excerpts] [Words indistinct] in Africa, between the forces of the People's Liberation Army of Namibia, PLAN, the military wing of SWAPO, and the racist terrorist army of South Africa.

Fierce battles have been reported by both military headquarters -- that of SWAPO and the racist one in Pretoria -- between the two armies since last August, when the apartheid regime stepped up her war of aggression against neighboring People's Republic of Angola and its war of genocide against the Namibian people in a vain attempt to destroy SWAPO militarily. It is of paramount importance to state here that racist South Africa suffered all these casualties while occupying some parts of southern Angola and also claiming to have destroyed the backbone of SWAPO.

Now the question arises: How many backbones does SWAPO have? Obviously, SWAPO has only one army, which is the People's Liberation Army of Namibia, PLAN -- the very one which has eliminated the racist soldiers, captured some of them, crippled many of them and destroyed an uncountable amount of the enemy war materiel and equipment. Thus, the war situation in Namibia has now reached dangerous proportions and must be stopped before it turns the entire south African region into bloodshed and destruction.

The regime is now faced with a number of serious problems in its military bases both in Namibia and South Africa itself. Many racist soldiers who refuse to be sent to Namibia to fight SWAPO and the freedom-loving people of Namibia are dodging the forced military conscription and some are simply staying away from the barracks without permission. Because of this situation, which has become higher and higher, the war mongers in Pretoria issued a statement threatening that such walkouts will in future be treated as mutiny. But the fact is that there is already a mutiny in the facist army, even though the leading proponents of apartheid want to conceal the truth.

The young boys are tired of defending an evil system of apartheid and oppression of other people. That is why the regime is now engaged in a scheme of recruiting mercenaries from Britain, the USA, West Germany, Chile and Israel to defend the inhuman system of apartheid. But until when will the Boers continue with this sinister scheme and war of genocide against the people of Namibia? The Namibian people, under the dynamic leadership of SWAPO, have been fighting now for more than 16 years against the most powerful regime on the African Continent -- which is well armed to the teeth by its imperialist masters of the NATO block -- and are still continuing to fight.

During all these years of protracted armed struggle against the Boer regime, SWAPO has proved to be a force to reckon with and the racist Mafia clique in Pretoria is quite aware of this fact. SWAPO of Namibia, as a matter of principle, is ready at any time to sign a cease-fire accord with racist South Africa in order to pave way for the peaceful settlement of the Namibian independence problem. SWAPO of Namibia wants to remind the white minority settlers that we are not fighting against the whites or coloreds, as our adversaries want to distort the conflict; we are fighting against the colonial administration of racist South Africa in our country for freedom and independence for all the people of the territory irrespective of color, race of religion. We are fighting against imperialist plunder and racist exploitation in Namibia.

ZIMBABWE

MUGABE WARNS THOSE WORKING AGAINST GOVERNMENT

CA011120 Salisbury Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 1 Feb 82

[Text] The prime minister, Comrade Mugabe, has warned that drastic steps will be taken against anyone who continues to work against the government. He told domestic workers in the Salisbury suburb of Borrowdale yesterday that there are some people who are still behaving as if they are living in Rhodesia and hope to come to power one day. Comrade Mugabe said such people should respect the present government or else they will find themselves in big trouble. The prime minister said there are some members of the police force who have not yet reformed and still continue to work for the Pretoria regime. He said the government will this year launch a vigorous war against them and sack them from the force. The prime minister said the government has so far dealt with some of these dissidents and the struggle against them will continue until they are completely removed. Comrade Mugabe said the minister of labor and social services would soon establish some teams which will travel throughout the country listening to people's grievances and those employers who refuse to accept change in Zimbabwe. He said no worker should agree to be pushed around or beaten by his employer as this is a most unthinkable thing to do.

TRADE UNION PRESIDENT CAUTIONS AGAINST DIVISIONS

CA282226 Salisbury Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 26 Jan 82

[Text] The president of the Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions, ZCTU, Comrade Makwarimba, has warned splinter trade unions that they will not be recognized if they do not merge within the next 4 months. In an interview with the ZBC today, Comrade Makwarimba accused what he called power-hungry, selfish trade union leaders of encouraging divisions among the trade unions. He said the ZCTU has the support of the Ministry of Labor and Social Services to stop recognition of any trade union which fails to participate at its national congress in June. Comrade Makwarimba called for an end to disputes in the trade union movement, adding that divisions among them would delay election of a new secretary-general of the ZCTU. He urged ZCTU members to respond positively to the prime minister's call for national transformations.

PRESIDENT SENDS MESSAGE ON SUSLOV'S DEATH

CA011030 Salisbury Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 29 Jan 82

[Text] The president, Comrade Banana, has sent a message of condolence to the president of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, USSR, on the death on Monday of Comrade Mikhail Suslov, a member of the Politburo and secretary of the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party. The text of the message reads: It was with a sense of deep sorrow and shock that I learned of the death of Comrade Suslov, a member of the Politburo and secretary of the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party. Comrade Suslov had a long-standing reputation as a staunch guardian of the tenets of Marxism-Leninism and was a man of action and devotion to his country. The example he set in his service to his people has true and enduring value. On behalf of myself and the Government and the people of Zimbabwe, I offer sincerest condolences. Accept, Comrade President, the assurances of my highest consideration.